



DARK NIGHTS

DEATH
METAL

1

ROBIN KING

LONG
LIVE...

...THE
KING.

AGES 13+
dcdomics.com

TOMASI • PATRICK
ROSSMO • SAMPERE
PLASCENCIA • ALBARRAN



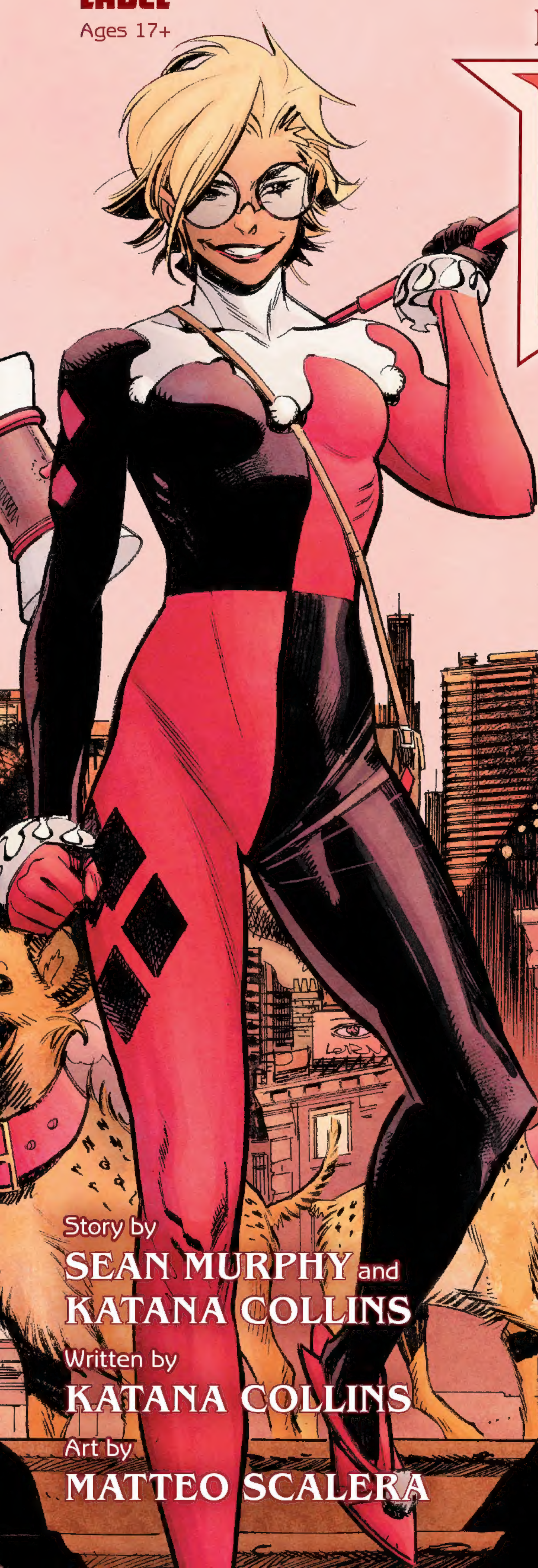
**BLACK
LABEL**

Ages 17+

The Joker's dead.
Batman's in prison.
Only Harley can save Gotham.

BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT
PRESENTS

HARLEY QUINN



Story by
SEAN MURPHY and
KATANA COLLINS

Written by
KATANA COLLINS

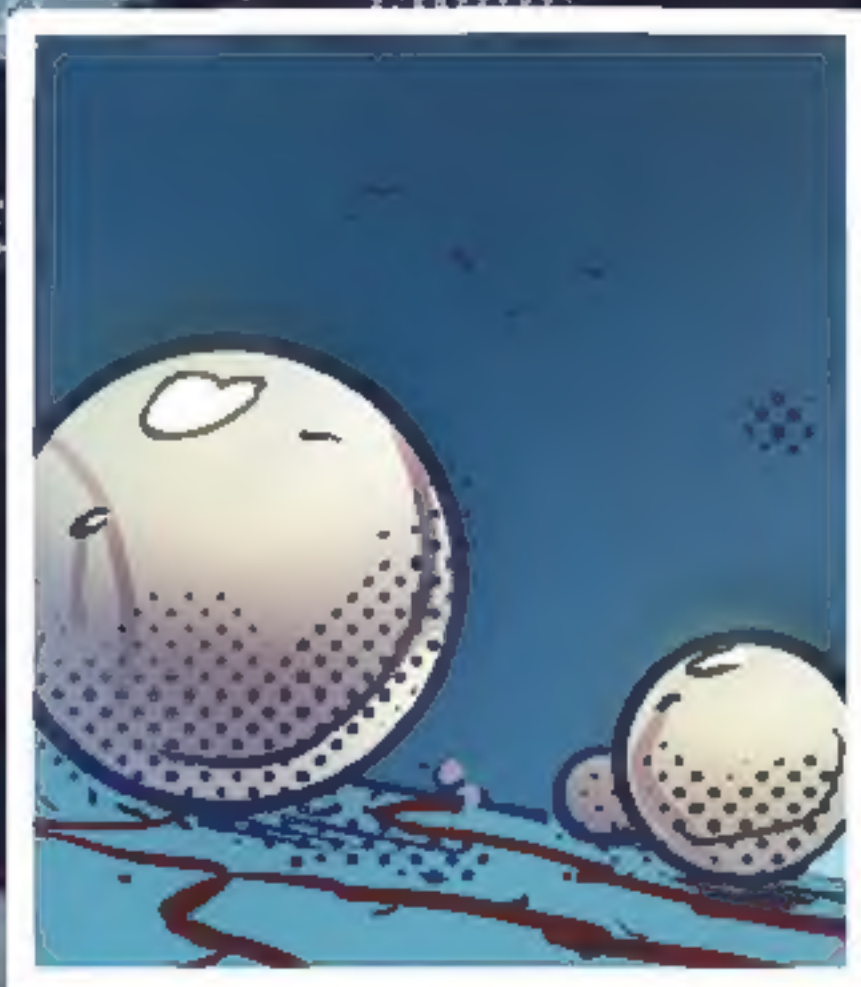
Art by
MATTEO SCALERA

6 issues
OCTOBER

PROLOGUE.

HIS STORY STARTS AT HIS PARENTS' FUNERAL.

MOTHER AND FATHER SHOT IN AN ALLEY. MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD.



NOW HE STANDS AT THEIR GRAVES WITH HIS CAREGIVER.

THROUGH WORN SOLES THE CAREGIVER CAN FEEL THE BEATING OF A THOUSAND WINGS, JUST BELOW THE GROUND.

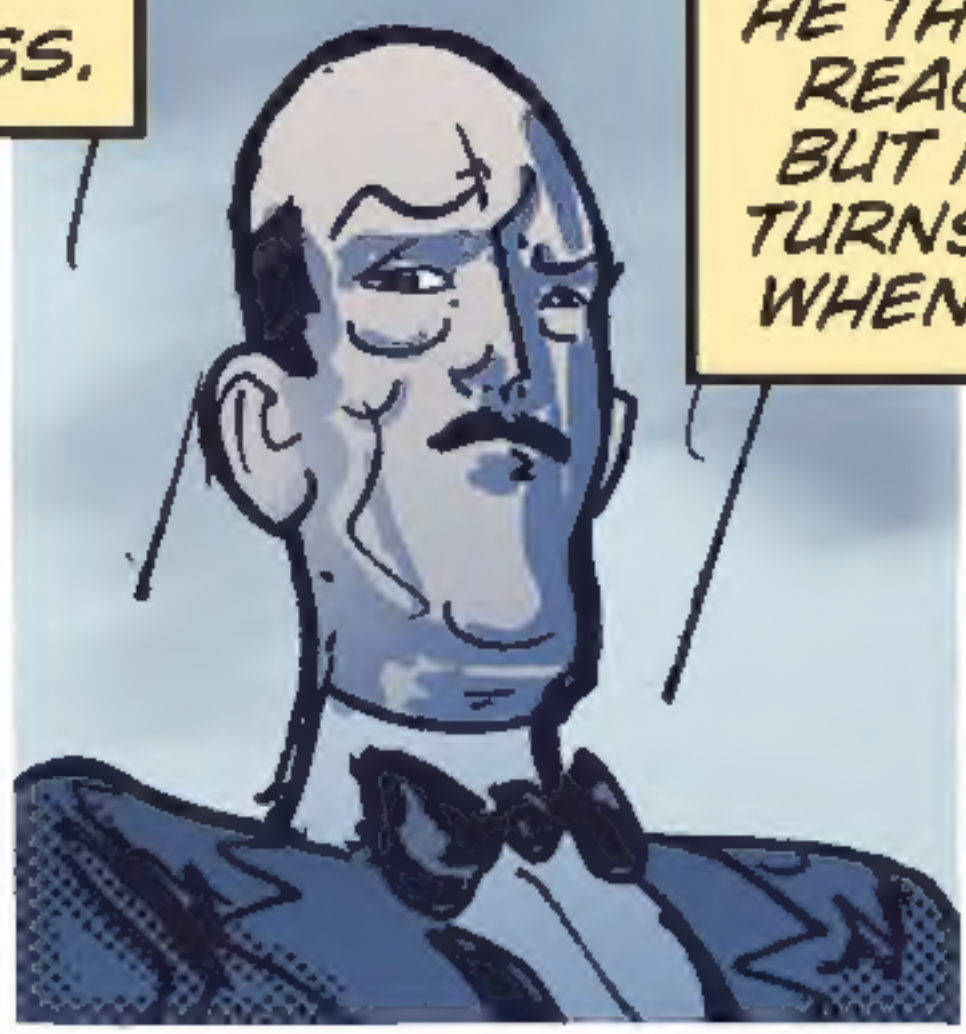
AND WHEN HE LOOKS AT THE BOY, HIS HEART NEARLY BREAKS, BECAUSE HE KNOWS THE BOY'S THOUGHTS MUST BE JUST LIKE THOSE BATS RIGHT NOW.



FRANTIC, SCREECHING THINGS CIRCLING IN PITCH-BLACK DARKNESS.



HE THINKS ABOUT REACHING OUT, BUT INSTEAD HE TURNS AWAY. AND WHEN HE DOES...



...THE BOY HEARS IT.



A ROBIN SINGING IN A NEARBY TREE. HOW FREE THE BIRD SOUNDS--HOW HAPPY! ITS SONG GOES "CHEER-CHEER-CHEER."

THE SONG SPEAKS TO HIS HEART. IT'S HOW HE FELT EVER SINCE HE SHOT HIS PARENTS IN THAT ALLEY.



AND AS THE CAREGIVER WALKS AWAY, THE BOY MAKES AN OATH.



YES, HE THINKS. YES, FATHER... I SHALL BECOME A ROBIN.

THE BOY USES ALMOST THE ENTIRE WAYNE FORTUNE TO MAKE IT.

A BELT AS BRIGHT AS THE ROBIN'S SONG. FUNNY ENOUGH, HE LEARNS DURING HIS ENDEAVOR THAT THE ROBIN IS THE OFFICIAL BIRD OF GOTHAM CITY. FORGOTTEN FACT, BUT TRUE.

HE TINKERS AND TINKERS. PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT THE MONEY HE'S SPENDING, BUT HE DOES NOT PAY ATTENTION. HE HIDES HIS REAL INTENTIONS.

HE IS BECOMING THE ROBIN. A BIRD THAT REMAINS CHEERFUL, HAPPY, AS IT CONQUERS. THE ROBIN IS THE MOST POPULOUS BIRD IN THE COUNTRY AFTER ALL.

THERE ARE NEARLY THREE HUNDRED MILLION AND COUNTING... WHY? BECAUSE IT IS, IN REALITY, VICIOUS AND AGGRESSIVE AND THERE IS NOWHERE IT WON'T MAKE ITS HOME.

- 1 BOTTLED IMP
2 LAST REMAINING LAZARUS PIT WATER
3 HEPHAESTUS'S "BIND OF VEILS"
4 SMILEX

- 5 Nth METAL CUFFS (no key)
RING DESIGNS: 6a THE SMALLVILLAIN--MADE OF EVERY SHADE OF KRYPTONITE
6b THE GODTHRILLER--CHARGED WITH ZEUS'S DEITY-KILLING LIGHTNING
6c THE RING POP--FORGED FROM THE GUN USED TO KILL THE WAYNES (for sentimental value)

- 7 RAGMAN SOUL-RAGS
8 UNHOLY WATER
9 HOLY WATER
10 LOBO HOOK (unbreakable)

HE WILL KILL THE ONES WHO CALL THEMSELVES HEROES. THE OLD GUARD. THE MOMS AND DADS AND FALSE IDOLS. ANYONE WHO TRIES TO FORCE HIM TO BE GOOD. TO CARE.

HE WILL INSPIRE A NEW GENERATION OF YOUTH. NO DARKNESS, NO CAVES, NO BATS. HE WILL BURN THE OLD ALIVE AND THE YOUNG WILL FOLLOW HIM AND THEY WILL NEST IN THE DESTRUCTION.

AND LIKE ROBINS, THEY WILL DO IT ALL SINGING THEIR HAPPY, HAPPY SONG...

NOW.

AH, HEROES...
YOUR DESPAIR
IS SO THICK IT
LINGERS IN
THE AIR.

I CAN
TASTE IT.
AND IT'S
DELICIOUS.

WAKE, DIANA!
ALL OF YOU WAKE UP
AND SEE WHAT YOU'VE
DONE. WHAT YOU'VE
GIVEN THESE
HANDSSSSSSS...

...THE POWER
YOU TRIED TO CAPTURE,
THE ENERGY OF EVERY
CRISIS IN HISTORY,
YOU'VE GIVEN ALL
TO ME!

WAKE UP
SO I CAN THANK
YOU ALL...



THE ROBIN WHO WOULD BE KING

PETER J. TOMASI
STORY AND WORDS

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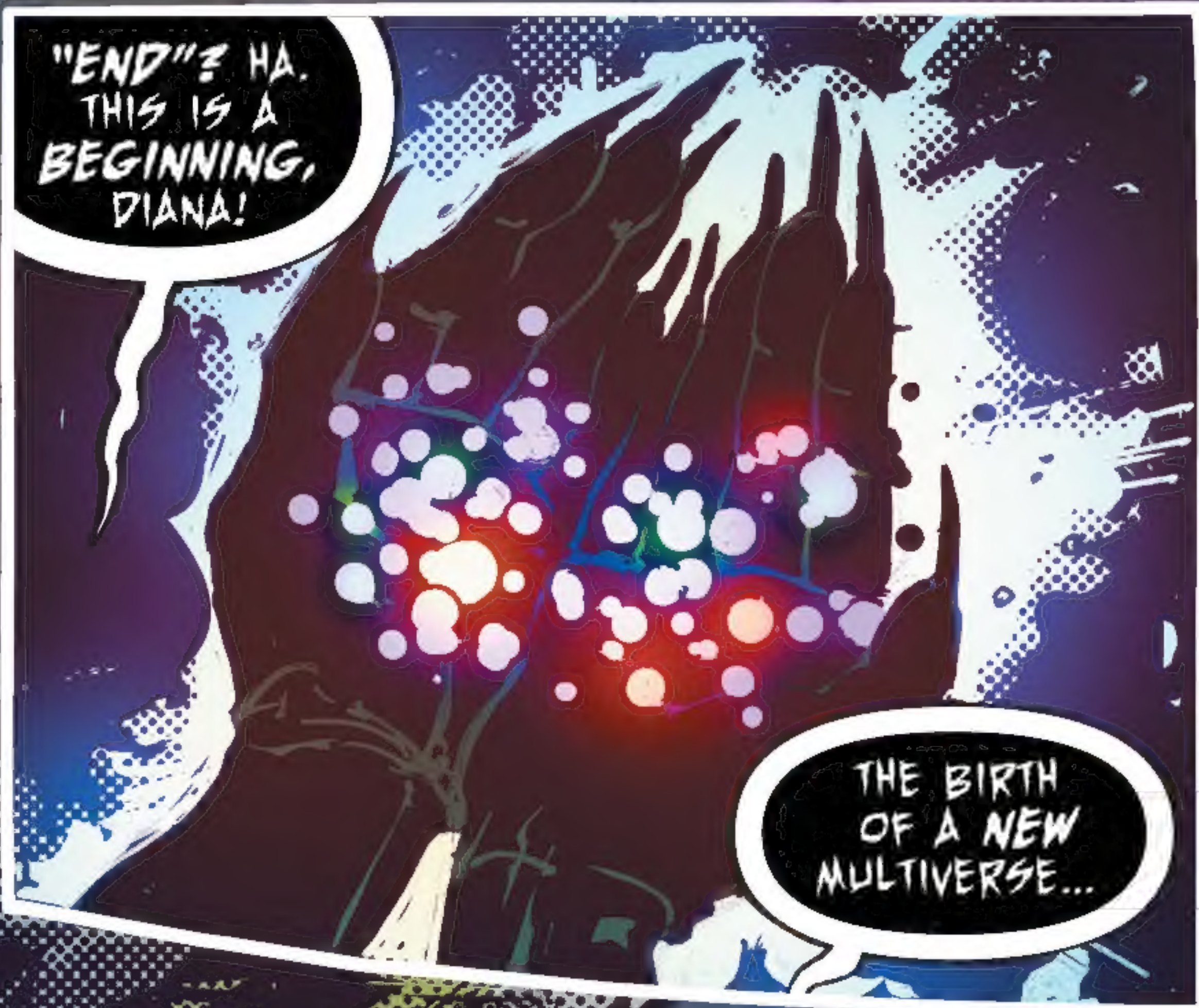
MARIE JAVINS
GROUP EDITOR

SPECIAL THANKS
SCOTT SNYDER

...FOR
MAKING ME THE
MOST POWERFUL
GOD IN THE
MULTIVERSE!

NO...
BRUCE, CLARK...
WE CAN'T LET
IT END THIS
WAY!

SUPERMAN
created by
JERRY SIEGEL and
JOE SHUSTER.
By special arrangement
with the
JERRY SIEGEL
family.

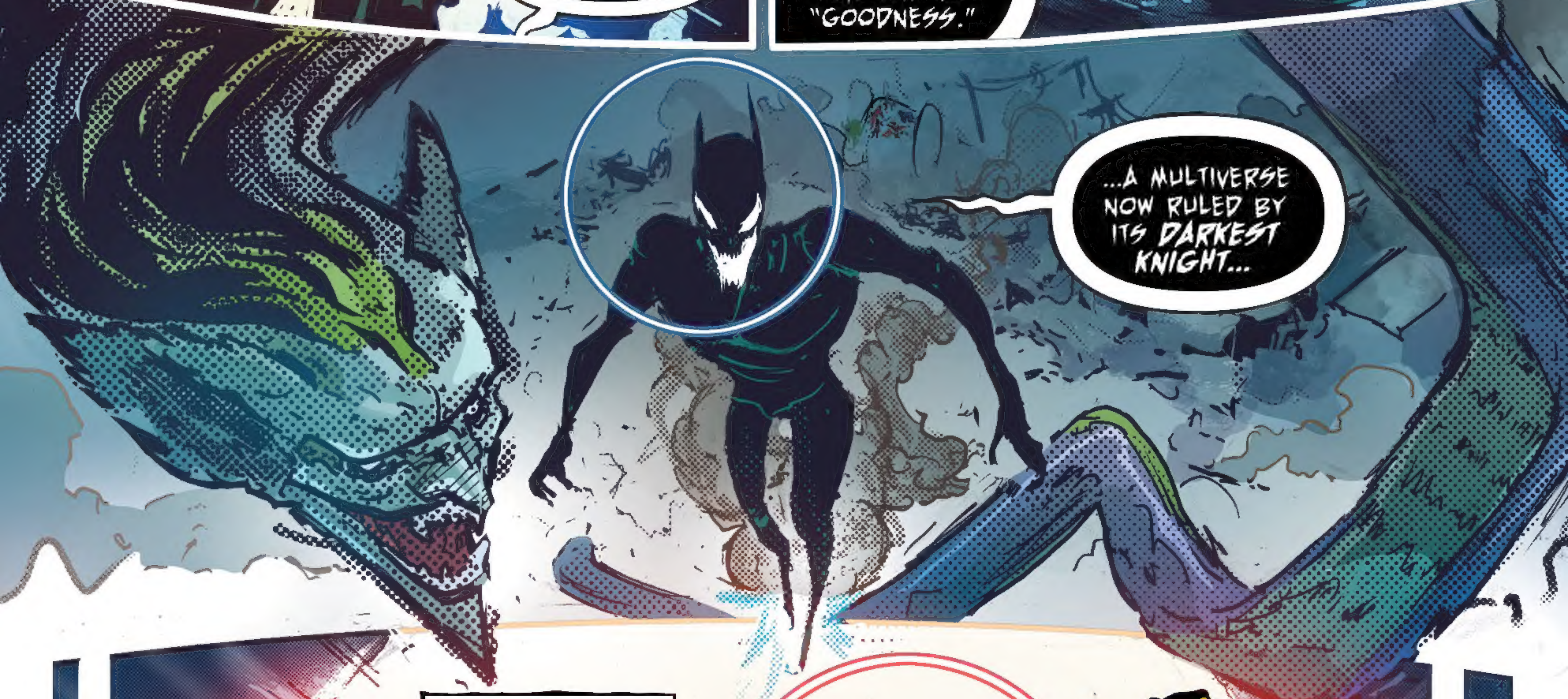


"END" HA.
THIS IS A
BEGINNING,
DIANA!

THE BIRTH
OF A NEW
MULTIVERSE...



...A MULTIVERSE
THAT **LAUGHS** AT
YOU. AT YOUR
HEROISM. AT
"GOODNESS."



...A MULTIVERSE
NOW RULED BY
ITS **DARKEST**
KNIGHT...



...AND HIS
KING OF PAIN.

WHO
IN...



FLASH

WOW!
SUPERMAN!
BATMAN AND
WONDER WOMAN!
WHAT AN
HONOR!

NOT TO GET
ALL EMOTIONAL,
BUT HONESTLY, MY
BIGGEST DREAM
ON MY WORLD WAS
TO GET TO MEET
YOU GUYS...

THEN.

"...AND KILL
YOU ALL."

EYES ON HIM?
ANYONE?! WHERE
THE HELL IS HE?

NO SIGN OF HIM,
SERGEANT BULLOCK.
NOT SINCE THE LIGHT
ON THE ROOF.

IT WASN'T
A #5%@ LIGHT
DETECTIVE
MONTROYA.

WHAT
HAPPENED?
ALL I HEARD
WAS--

THE THING
WAS A GIFT FROM
WAYNE ENTERPRISES.
A SIGNAL WITH A BIRD AT
THE CENTER. TO CELEBRATE
SPRING, GOTHAM,
WHATEVER.

WHEN JIM
TURNED IT ON THOUGH...
THERE WAS A HIDDEN
MICROWAVE CANNON
IN IT AND--HIS FACE--
IT WAS BUBBLING,
RENEE.

MORE LIKE
SIZZLING, TO
BE FAIR?



MY GOD,
IS GORDON
GOING TO
MAKE IT?

PART OF
ME IS PRAYING
YES, PART OF ME
IS PRAYING...HE
DOESN'T.

WELL WE HAVE
CAPES COMING IN FAST.
APPARENTLY, THE RUMOR
IS WHOEVER DID THIS IS
THE SAME MONSTER
WHO'S BEEN KILLING
THEM OFF, TOO.

WHOEVER
HE IS, LET'S
HOPE HE BURNS
TONIGHT.

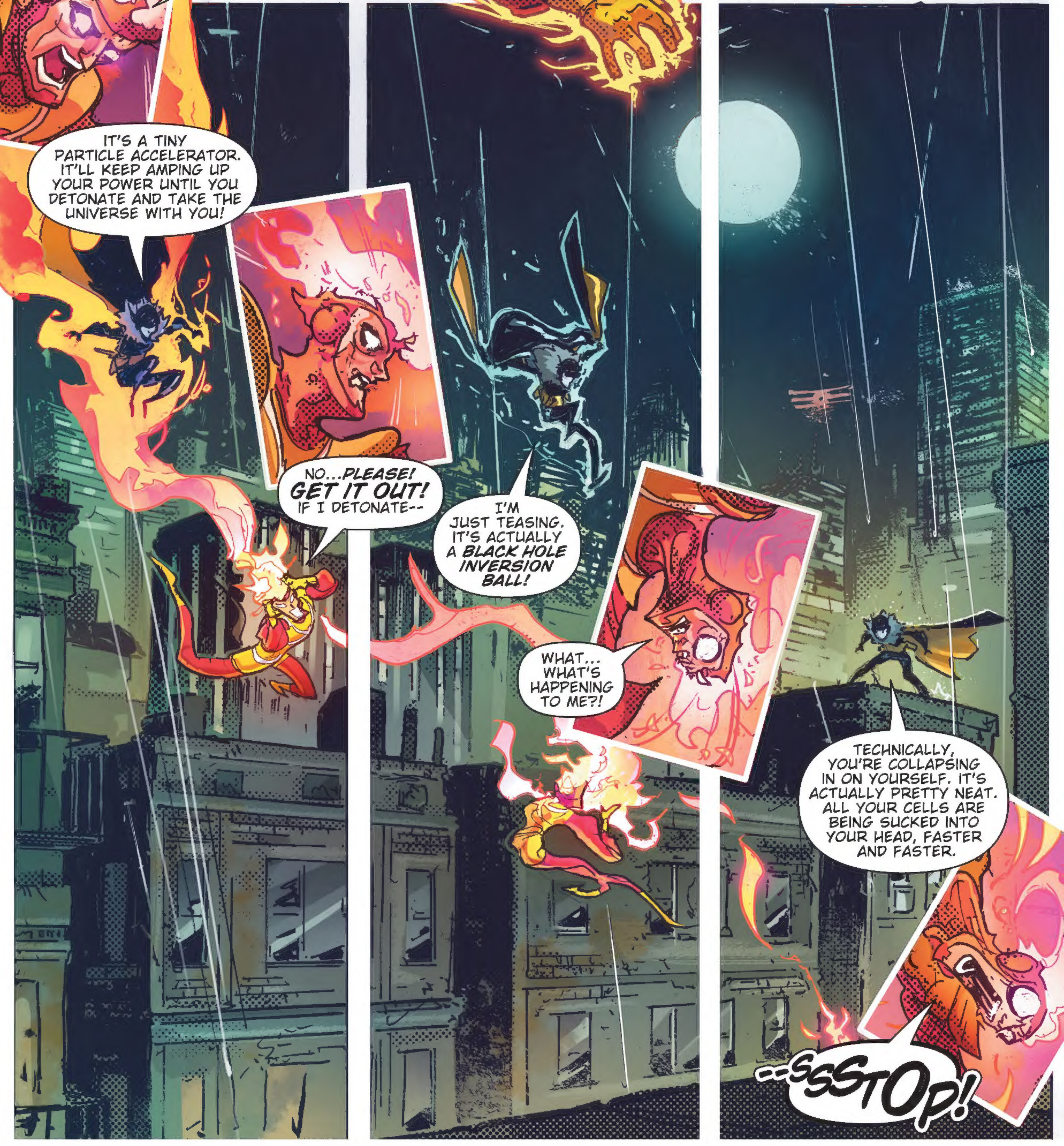
EVENING,
FIRESTORM!
WELCOME TO
GOTHAM!



SO, RONNIE,
JASON, DOC,
WHOEVER'S IN THERE,
FORGIVE ME, BUT THIS
MIGHT STING FOR
A SECOND...

ARGHH!

WHAT
THE HELL
DID YOU
DO?!



IT'S A TINY
PARTICLE ACCELERATOR.
IT'LL KEEP AMPING UP
YOUR POWER UNTIL YOU
DETONATE AND TAKE THE
UNIVERSE WITH YOU!

NO...PLEASE!
GET IT OUT!
IF I DETONATE--

I'M
JUST TEASING.
IT'S ACTUALLY
A **BLACK HOLE**
INVERSION
BALL!

WHAT...
WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME?!

TECHNICALLY,
YOU'RE COLLAPSING
IN ON YOURSELF. IT'S
ACTUALLY PRETTY NEAT.
ALL YOUR CELLS ARE
BEING SUCKED INTO
YOUR HEAD, FASTER
AND FASTER.

--SSSTOP!

THAT WORKED
BETTER THAN
I THOUGHT IT
WOULD--

THEIR HUNTING
ME HAS MADE THE
LAST FEW DAYS
WICKEDLY FUN.

OOOH,
GUNS!

RATATAT

TIME TO
DIE, VILE
WHELP!

RATATAT

**BLAM
BLAM
BLAM**

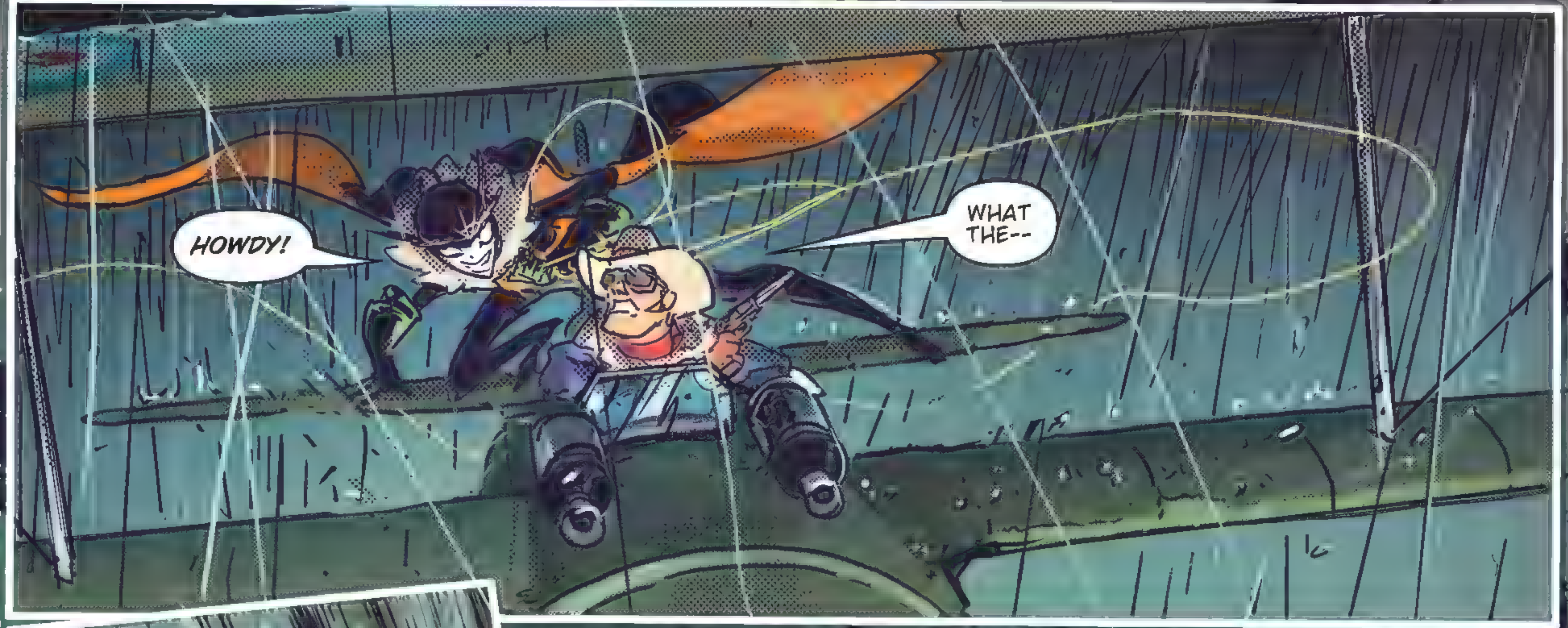
HANS
VON HAMMER
AND STEVE
SAVAGE!

POK

POK



HEY--
WAIT FOR
ME!



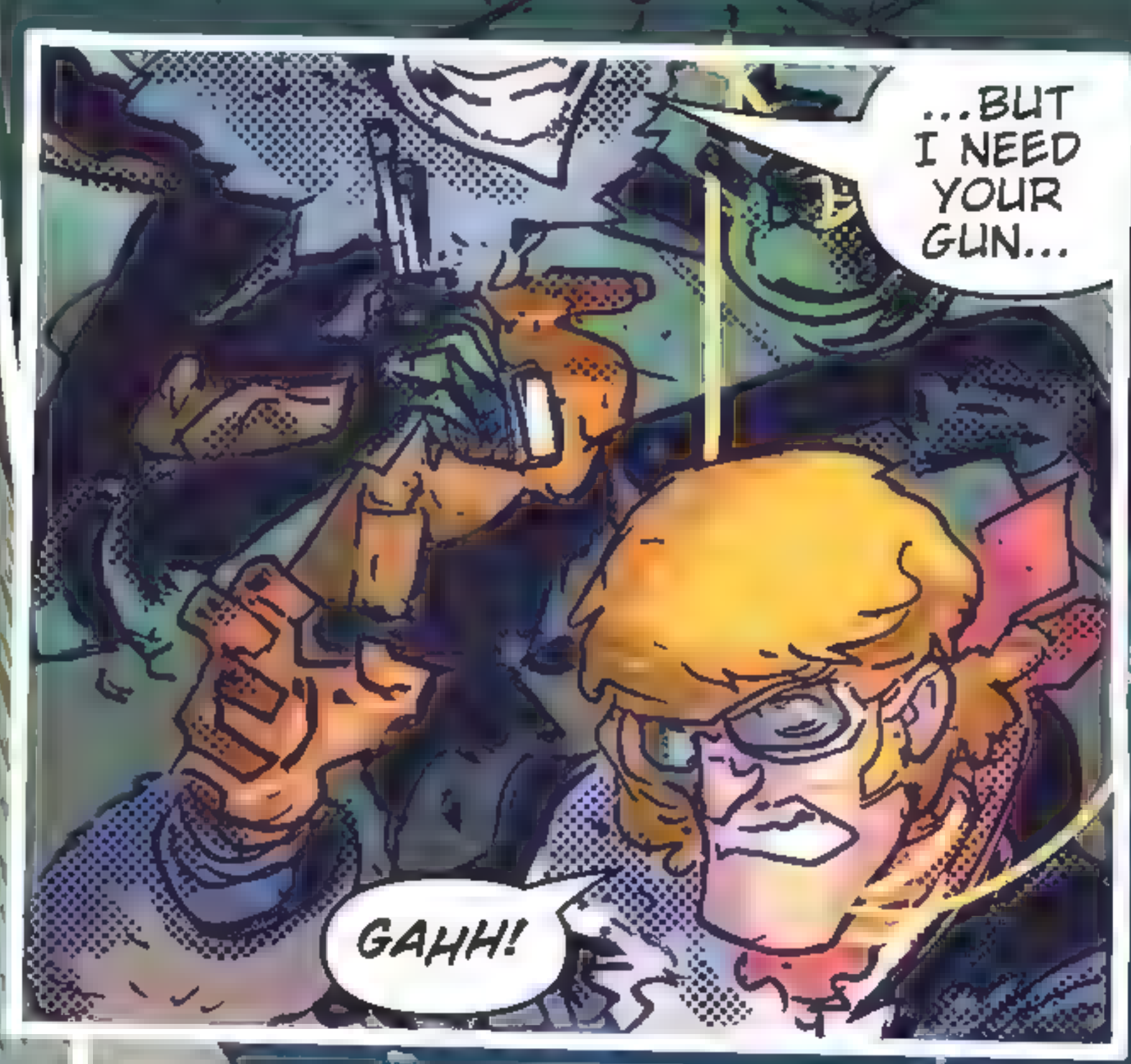
HOWDY!

WHAT
THE--



HATE TO
BURST YOUR
BALLOON,
STEVIE...

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM



GAHH!



...OOH,
A COLT
.45...

BLAM



...AND
YOUR
PLANE.

YOUR
MURDEROUS
DAYS END NOW,
SOULLESS
CREATURE!

RATTA
RATTA
RATTA
RATTA

THE BOY FEELS
THE EYES ON HIM.
CHILDREN WATCHING
FROM THEIR ROOMS.

HE FLIES STRAIGHT
TOWARD THE OLD MAN,
THE WAR HERO,
FASTER AND FASTER.

BRATTA

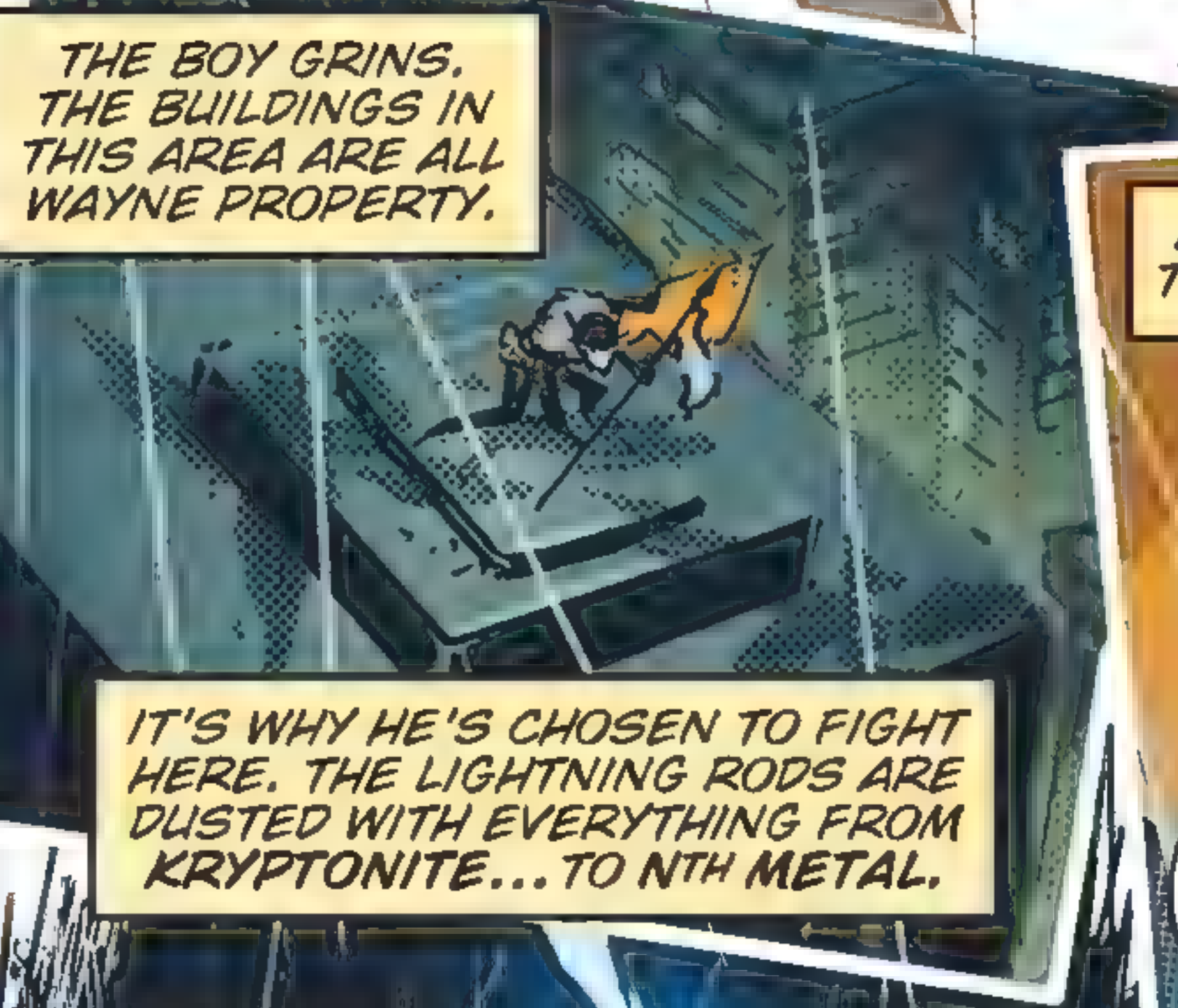
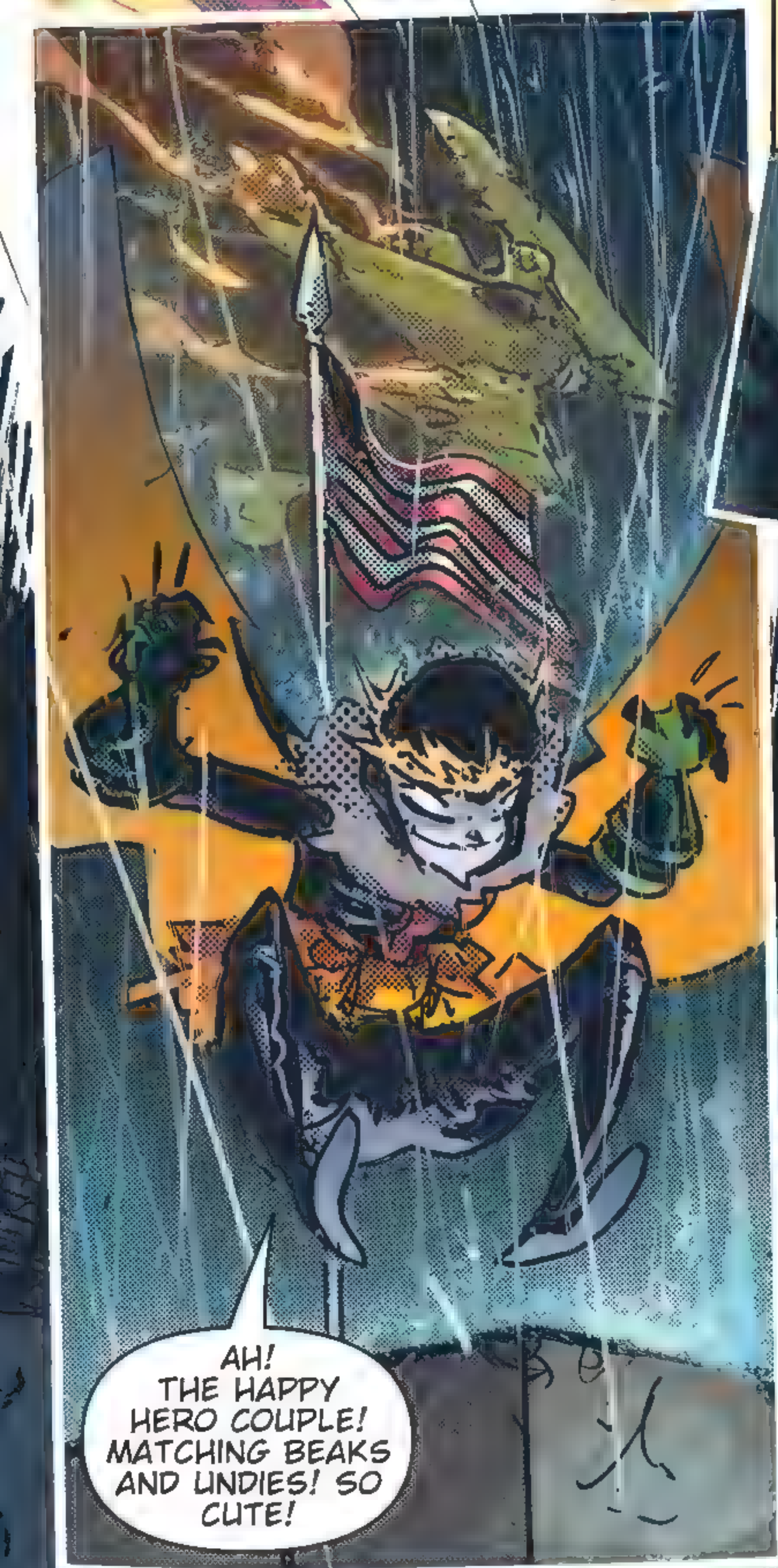
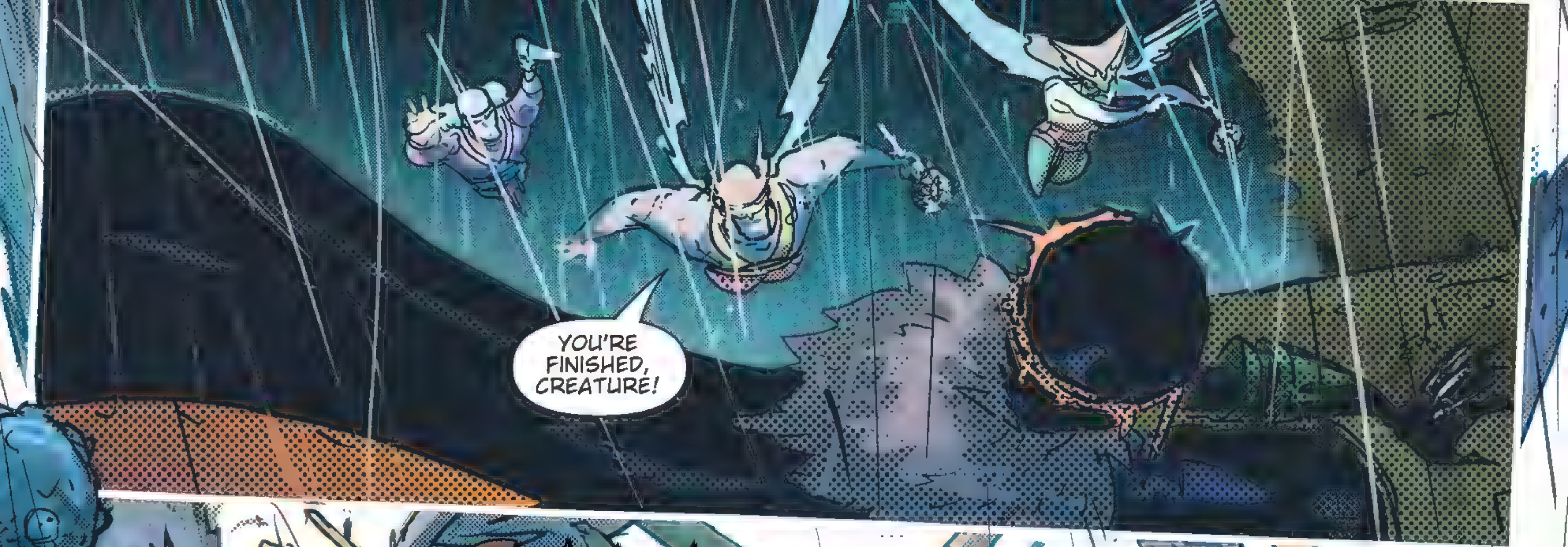
BRATTA
BRATTA

AND
OVERKILLS
HIM.

GAHH!

VIP
VIP
VIP
VIP
VIP

THE
WORD YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR IS
MAYDAY?





YOU
COLD-BLOODED
MURDERER!

YOW!

DON'T THINK
I FORGOT ABOUT
YOU, SPACEBOY!

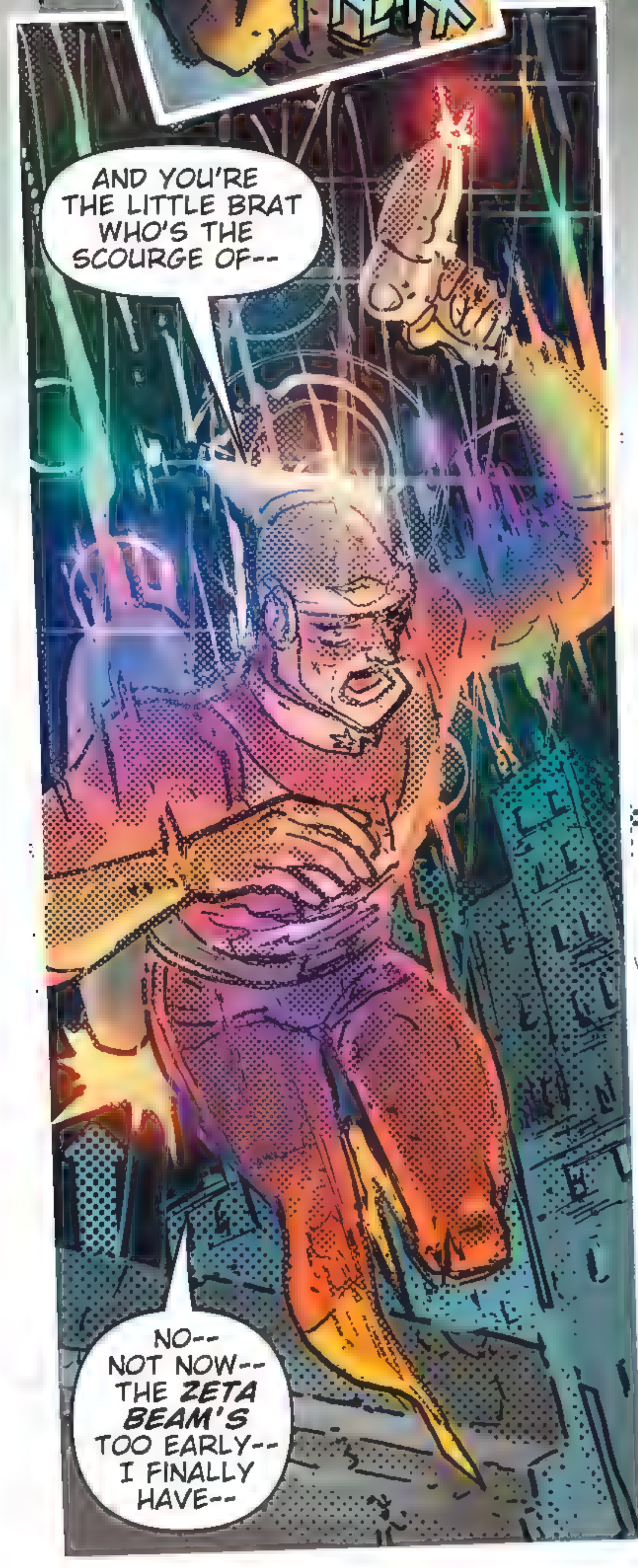


I SHOULD
LET YOU FALL TO
YOUR DEATH!

BUT WE BOTH
KNOW YOU WON'T,
'CAUSE YOU'RE
ADAM STRANGE,
HERO OF RANN!

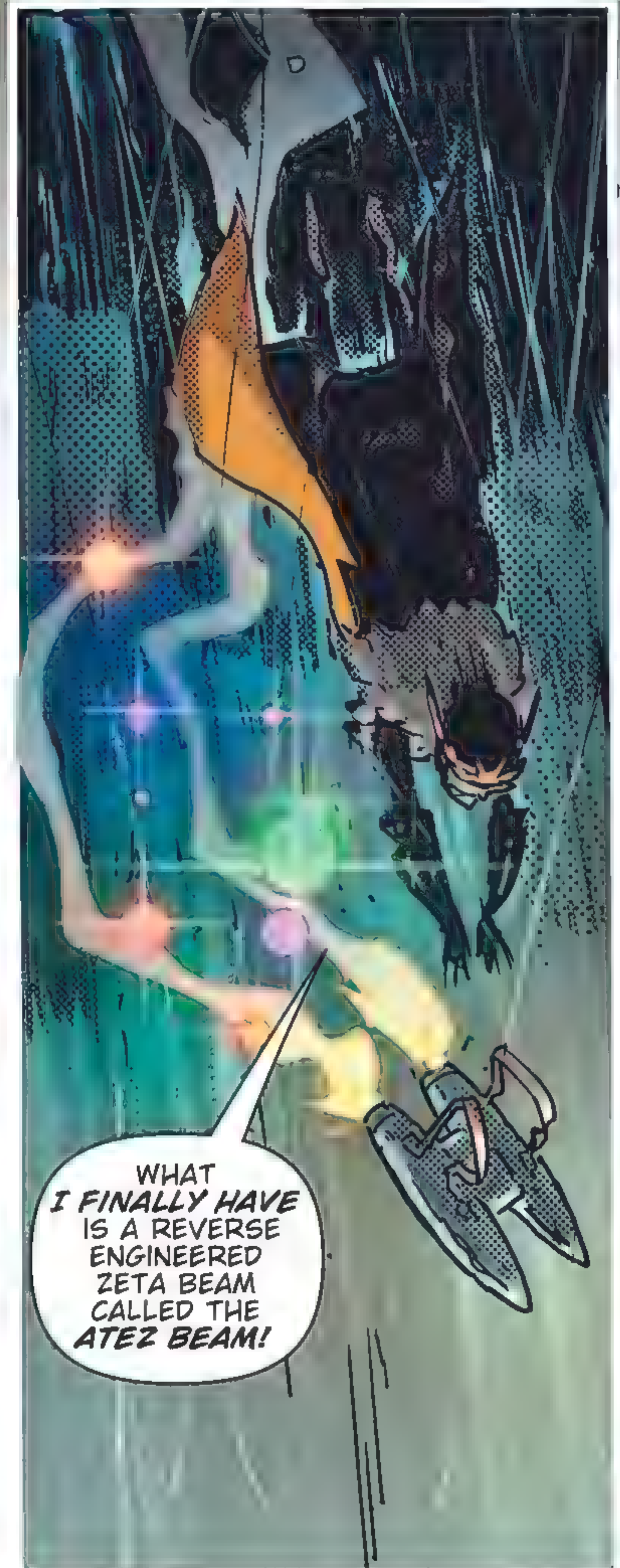


KLICK



AND YOU'RE
THE LITTLE BRAT
WHO'S THE
SCOURGE OF--

NO--
NOT NOW--
THE ZETA
BEAM'S
TOO EARLY--
I FINALLY
HAVE--



WHAT
I FINALLY HAVE
IS A REVERSE
ENGINEERED
ZETA BEAM
CALLED THE
ATEZ BEAM!



ONLY KINK IS,
I'VE PROGRAMMED
IT TO *PHASE* YOU
INTO THE BASE OF
THAT WALL.

HEY!
COOL JET
PACK!

MORE EYES
ON HIM.

NESTED IN
THE WINDOWS.

HUNGRY.

THE BOY FEELS THEM
WATCHING AS HE DESCENDS,
SO HE ADDS SOME POMP.



HE SPEAKS SO LOUD HIS
THROAT HURTS, SO THEY
CAN ALL HEAR HIM.

HE TAUNTS THE "HEROES," CALLS THEM
COWARDLY AND SUPERSTITIOUS. ALL OF
THEM. THE WAR HEROES. SPACE MEN.
FLYING GUARDIANS OF HISTORY.

TELLING PEOPLE TO BE GOOD,
TO SUFFER, TO BE SAD. TO
FLAP AROUND IN THE DARK.

HE CAN FEEL LITTLE FACES
PRESSING AGAINST WINDOWS.
BREATH FOGGING UP GLASS.

RIGHT ON TIME HIS SENSOR
GOES OFF. SOMETHING BIG AND
POWERFUL IS APPROACHING
FAST. SUPERMAN IS COMING.
WONDER WOMAN.

BOXX

IT'S ALMOST DAWN.
HE CAN FEEL THE
SUN COMING UP.
A NEW MORNING. BUT
THEN...A DARKNESS
FALLS OVER THE ALLEY.

WHAT YOU
WANT WILL
NEVER
HAPPEN.

...
AND
WHO ARE YOU
SUPPOSED
TO BE?

SOMEONE
WHO CARES.

SOMEONE
WILLING TO
TELL YOU THE
TRUTH...

I AM THE
BATMAN WHO
LAUGHS.

AND THIS
WORLD YOU DANCE AND
PRANCE ON, LITTLE BIG MAN,
HAS NO REAL SIGNIFICANCE
IN THE GRAND PLAN OF
THE MIGHTY ONES.

IT IS ONE
OF MANY ORBS
THAT AT BEST OFFER
A DIVERSION
OF SORTS.

IT CAN BE
CAST AWAY BY A
MERE WAVE OF
THE HAND.

IT HAS NO
PERMANENCE.

IT'S NOT
REAL.

IF THIS
ALL ISN'T REAL
THEN YOU'RE
SAYING I'M NOT
REAL...



...BUT IT SURE
AS HELL FEELS
REAL TO ME.

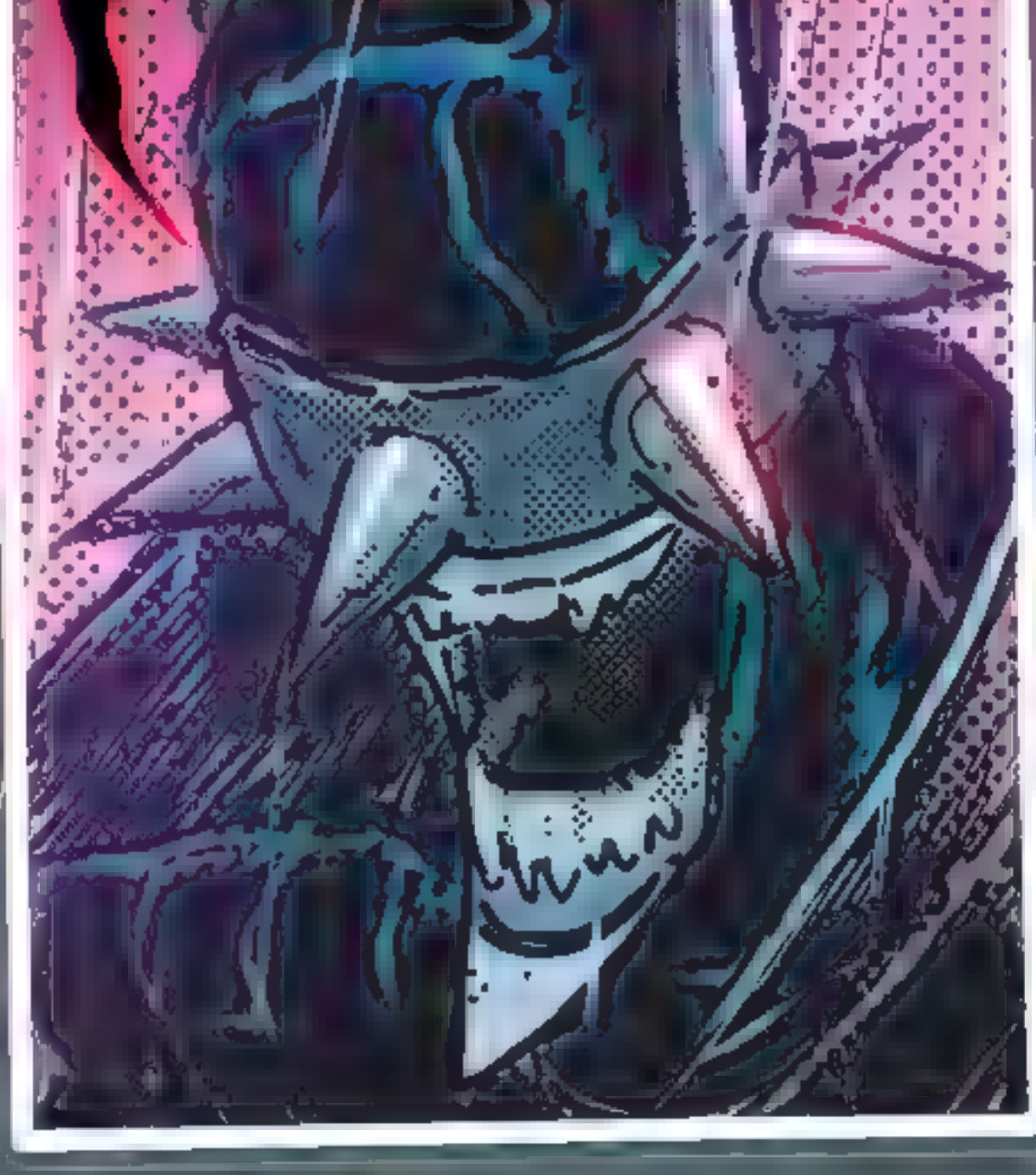


AND IT
SURE FELT REAL
TO THESE HEROES
DEAD AT MY FEET.

I KNOW THIS IS ALL QUITE
CONFUSING, BUT YOU, MY
BOY, ARE THE ONLY TRUE
THING HERE.



THERE'S A PLACE WHERE
YOU REALLY DO FEEL THE
BLOOD AND HEAR THE
DEATH RATTLES OF THOSE
YOU STEAL THE LIFE
FROM.



SO, WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?



I THINK
I'D LIKE TO
GO THERE...

"...AND SEE THIS PLACE FOR MYSELF."

I LOVE THE SMELL OF MUD AND BLOOD.

THERE'S A TIMELESS FEEL ABOUT IT--A SENSE OF ANCIENT BATTLEFIELDS--OF CAUSES LOST--DON'T YOU AGREE, SUPERMAN?

NOW.

...GNNN...

AW, COME ON! THIS IS THE FUN PART!

GET UP AND LET'S FIGHT!

KRAK

RING, RING, COME ON!

I'VE CREATED SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR EACH OF YOU. WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE!

YOU NEED TO SCREAM.

YOU NEED TO BEG.

YOU NEED TO BLEED PROFUSELY.

THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOING TO BLEED PROFUSELY TODAY...

...HRNN...



AH, BLUE BEETLE,
ANIMAL MAN, AND
RED TORNADO.

PLEASE,
FEEL FREE
TO *DISTRACT*
ME AS BEST
YOU CAN.

WE'RE GONNA
DO MORE THAN
DISTRACT YOU,
PUNK!

WE'RE
GONNA
PUT YOU
AWAY
FOREVER!

I'D SAY
I'M SCARED,
BUT...

TAKE
HIM
DOWN!

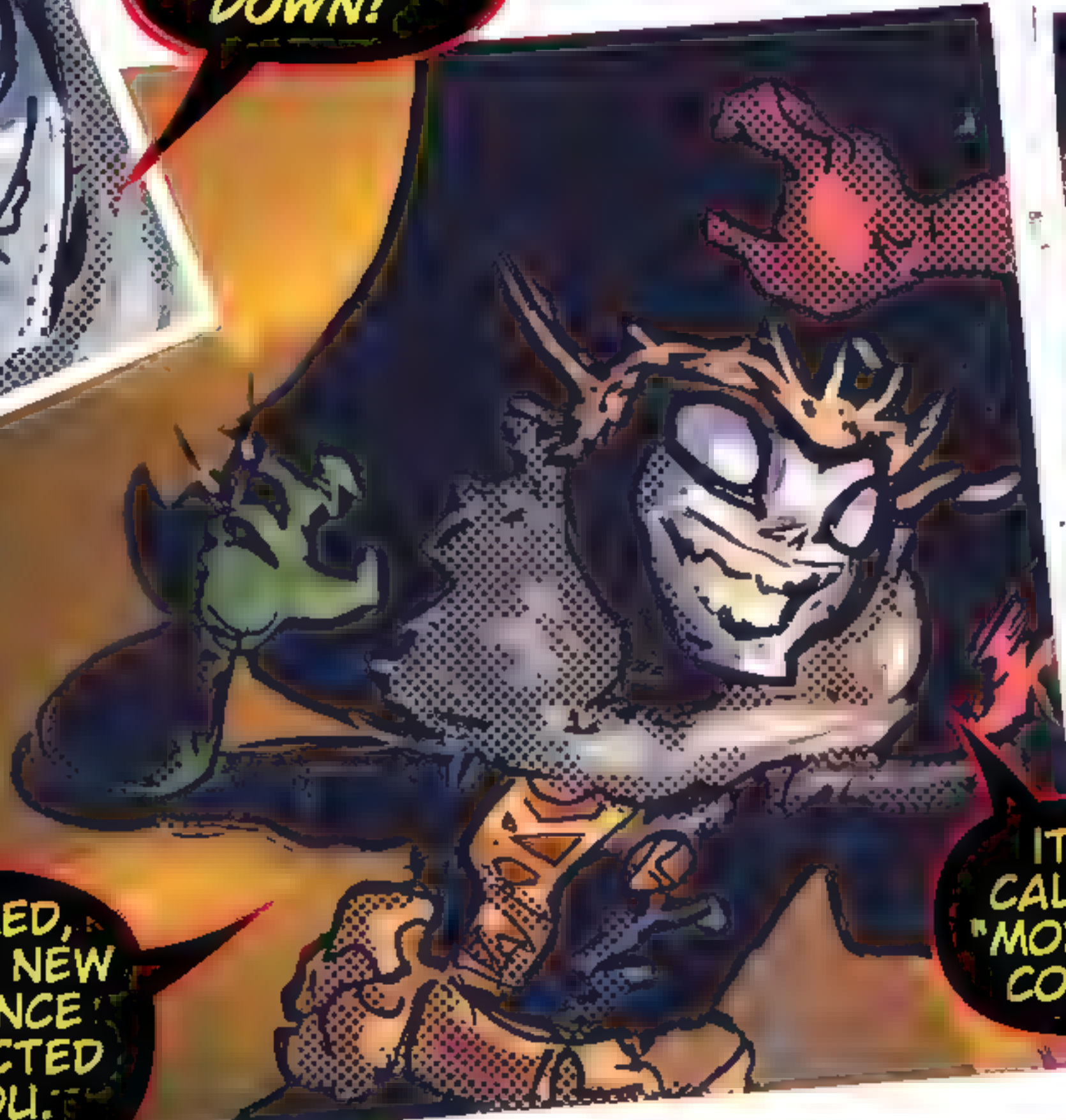


YES...

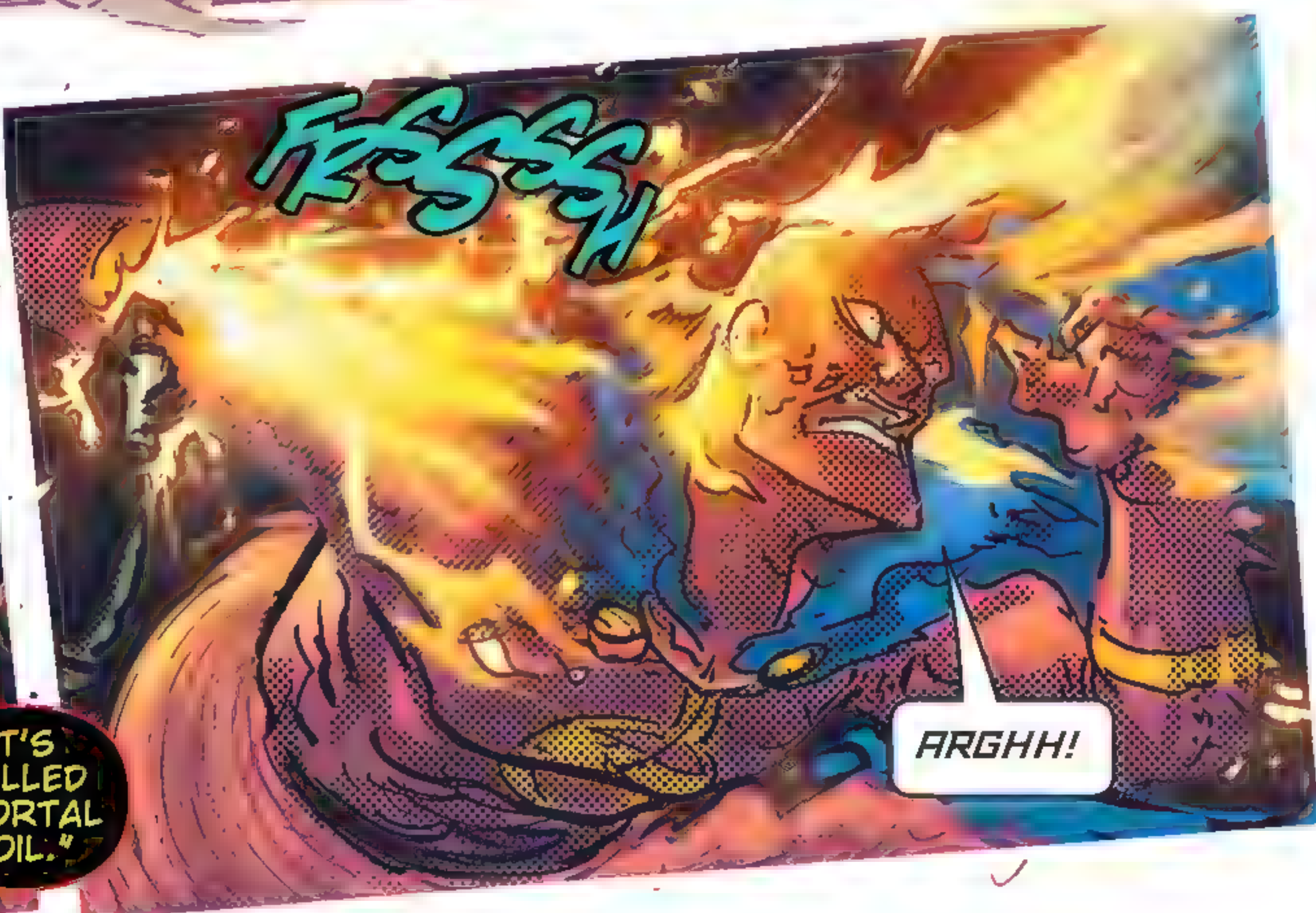


...TRY AND
BRING ME
DOWN!

HERE, RED,
TRY THIS NEW
FRAGRANCE
I CONCOCTED
FOR YOU.

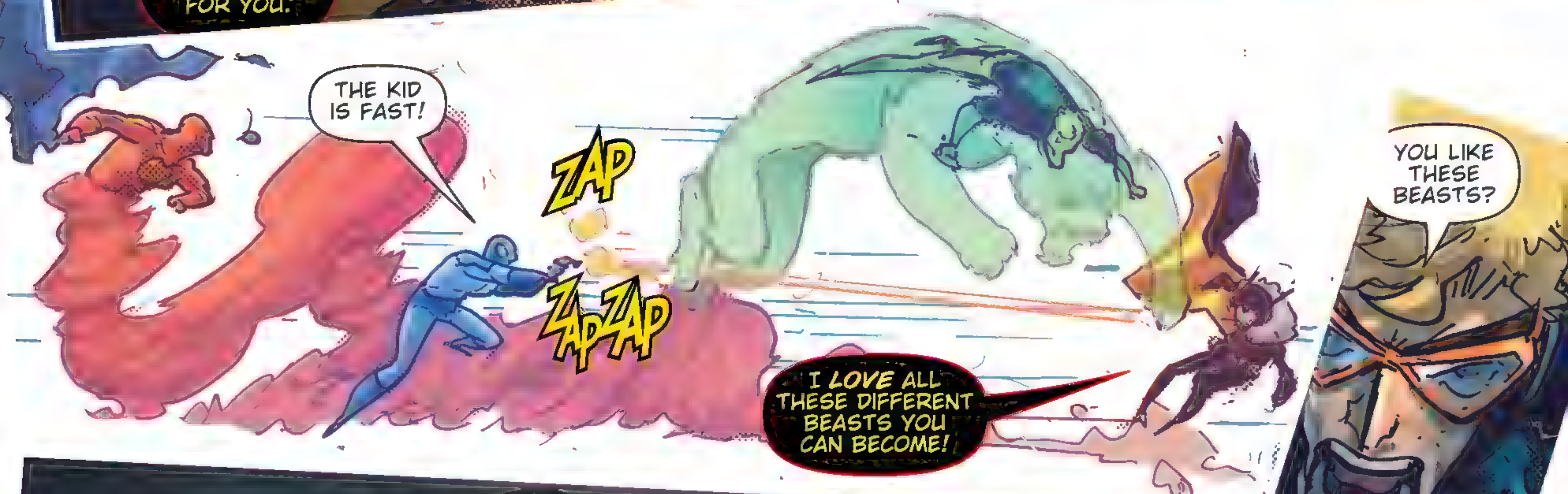


IT'S
CALLED
"MORTAL
COIL."



FWASSH

ARGHH!



THE KID
IS FAST!

ZAP
ZAPZAP

I LOVE ALL
THESE DIFFERENT
BEASTS YOU
CAN BECOME!

YOU LIKE
THESE
BEASTS?



HOW
ABOUT
THIS
ONE!

FWAN

UGNN!

SURRENDER
AND STOP THIS
INSANITY.

UNN...

GEE,
I BET YOU
MISS YOUR
FAMILY,
BUDDY
BAKER.

MAYBE IT'S
TIME...

...TO SEE
THEM...

...AND SAY
HELLO.

DAD!

BUDDY!

POP!

OMIGOD--
NO!

ELLEN!
CLIFF!
MAXINE--
I MISSED
YOU SO--

OH! I FORGOT TO
MENTION...I EXPOSED
THEM TO THIS CORRUPTED
VERSION OF THE ANTI-LIFE
EQUATION, TURNING
THEM INTO THE
ANTI-LIVING?

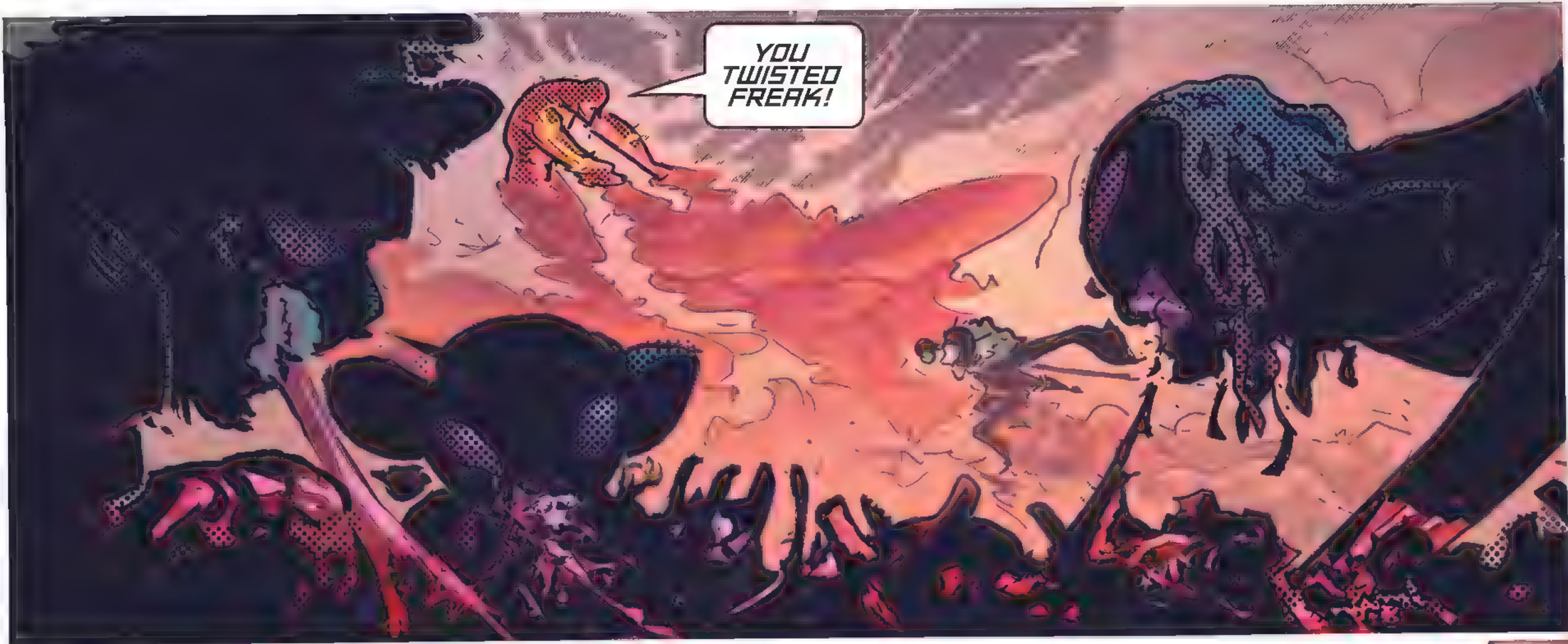
WHAT THE
A.L. LOVE **BEST** IS
CONSUMING LIFE; AND YOU
BEING A **NEXUS** OF LIFE
ON EARTH...BUDDY, TO
THEM RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE
TRULY THE **BEST**
DAD EVER!

RRARR...

GRRR...

CHRRIP...

YAAGHHH!



YOU
TWISTED
FREAK!

I PREFER
CREATIVE FREAK,
ACTUALLY!

WHILE WE
WERE FIGHTING,
I FLIPPED A LITTLE
SOMETHING ONTO YOUR
BODIES FROM MY UTILITY
BELT DESIGNED
ESPECIALLY
FOR YOU.

FWAASH



SINCE
YOU'RE SUCH A BIG
FAN OF SCARABS,
TEDDY...



...I FELT
YOU MIGHT
WANT TO
SEE ONE UP
CLOSE.

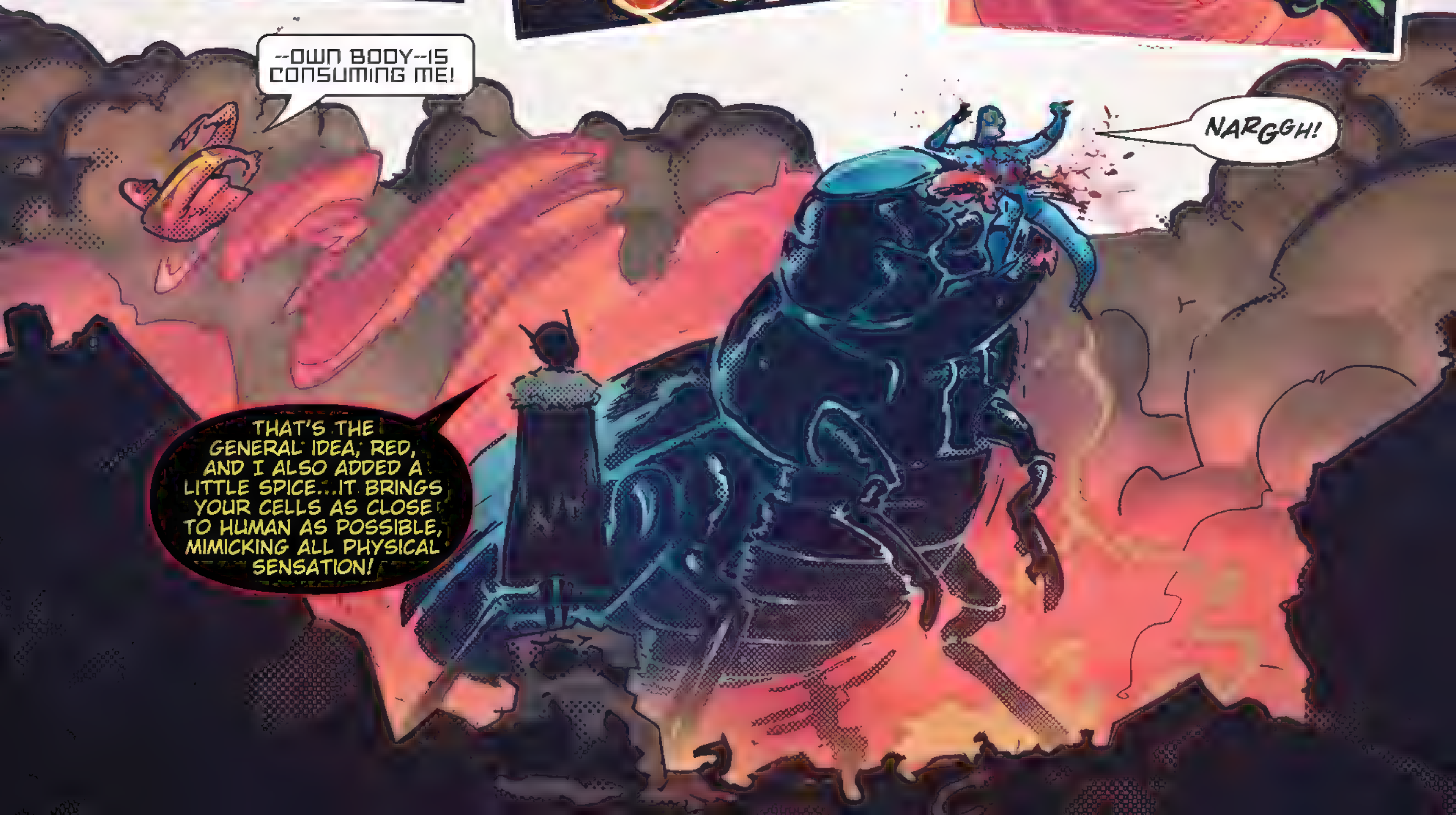
GNFF!

KOOON



BUT I NEVER
FINISHED TELLING
YOU ABOUT THE
MORTAL COIL,
TORNADO!

CAN'T
STOP--
GOING TOO
FAST--



OWN BODY--IS
CONSUMING ME!

NARGGH!

THAT'S THE
GENERAL IDEA, RED,
AND I ALSO ADDED A
LITTLE SPICE...IT BRINGS
YOUR CELLS AS CLOSE
TO HUMAN AS POSSIBLE,
MIMICKING ALL PHYSICAL
SENSATION!



...YOU GET
TO BE A
REAL BOY,
MAN!

RIGHT
BEFORE YOU'RE
TORN APART,
BUT STILL!

MIND RED'S
SHRAPNEL FOR
ME, WILLYA,
BUDDY?

GAHH!

SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK

CHOMP

WHISTLE
WHILE THE WIND
BLOWS, YOU
WHIRLING
DERVISH!

--FLESH
AND
BLOOD--

--LIKE IN
MY ELECTRIC
DREAMS--

--FEELING
LOVE AND
HATE--

--JOY AND
PAINNNNNNN--

THE BOY LAUGHS AND CHEERS
AS THE ANDROID HERO IS
UNDONE, AS THE NATURE HERO
IS TORN APART, AS THE
SCIENCE HERO IS DEVoured...

IT WAS ALL AS
FUN AS HE
KNEW IT WOULD
BE. NO GUILT,
NO REMORSE!
THEY DESERVED
IT, AFTER ALL,
THE OLD FOLKS,
ALL OF THEM!

THEY RUINED
THINGS WITH
THEIR RULES,
AND IDEALS,
AND "VALUES."

WHAT HAD IT
ALL GOT THE
WORLD?
NOTHING!

IT WAS TIME
FOR NEW
HEROES!

HE REALIZES HE'S SINGING
MORE THAN SPEAKING,
AN ANTHEM CALLING OUT...

...TO ANYONE WHO'D LISTEN.

THIS WAS MY EARTH, SON. LIKE YOU, I SET OUT TO CONQUER IT. AND I DID.

NOW IT'S WHERE I CREATE MY KNIGHTS. I BRING BATMEN HERE FROM ALL ACROSS THE DARK MULTIVERSE TO SEE IF THEY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN. SOME DO... AND SOME DO NOT.

PLLZZZZ...

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

UNNNHHH...

YOU, THOUGH, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU'LL MAKE ONE OF THE GREATEST DARK KNIGHTS EVER.

CROWN

CROWN

CROWN





WAIT, WAIT, YOU WANT ME TO BE A BAT? HA! NO WAY, MAN.



HEH, I KNOW, I KNOW. YOU WANT TO BE A BIRD, BUT THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.

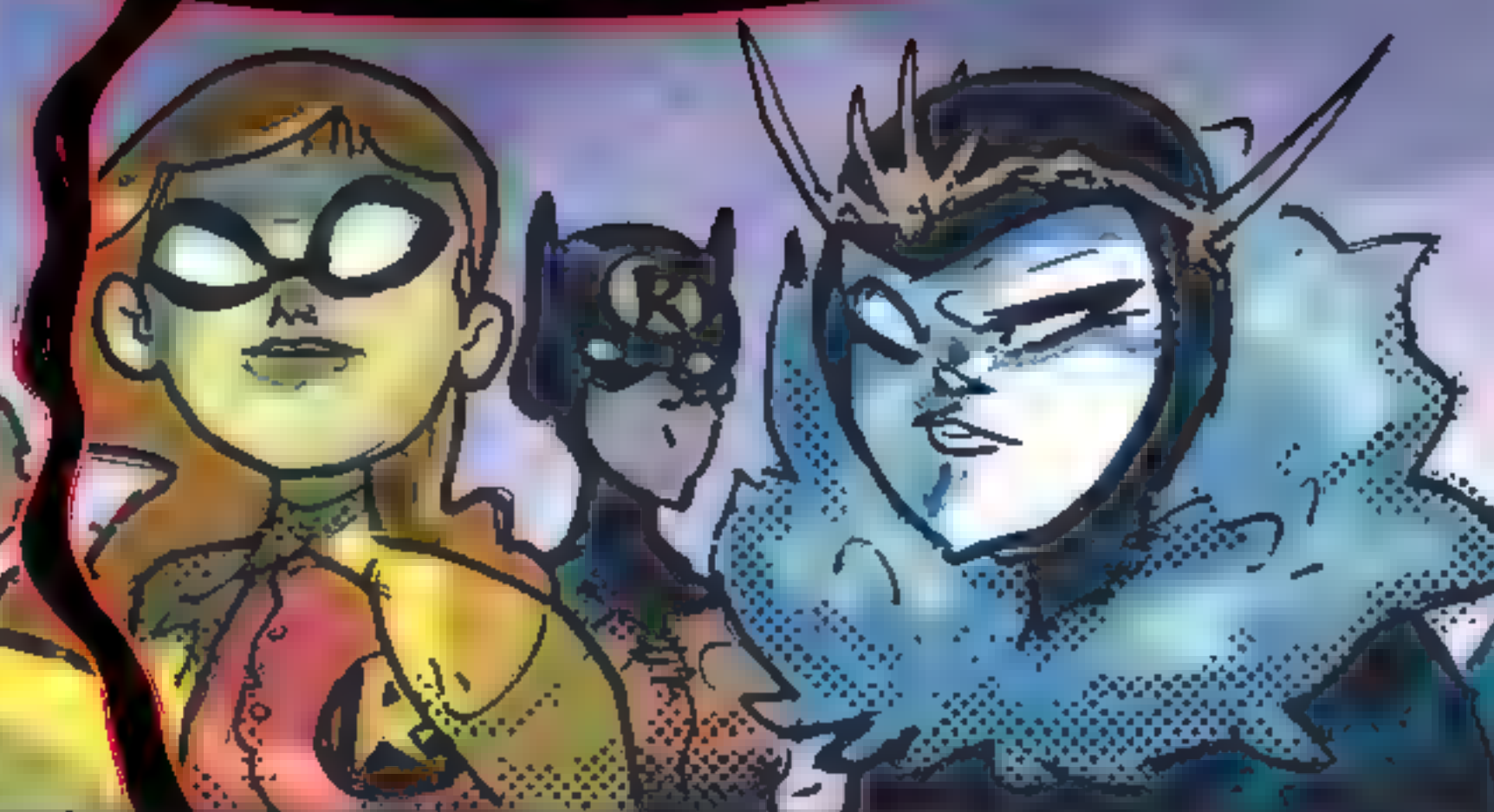
YOU WANT TO INSPIRE OTHERS TO FOLLOW YOU.

KRAKAKOON



CROWN

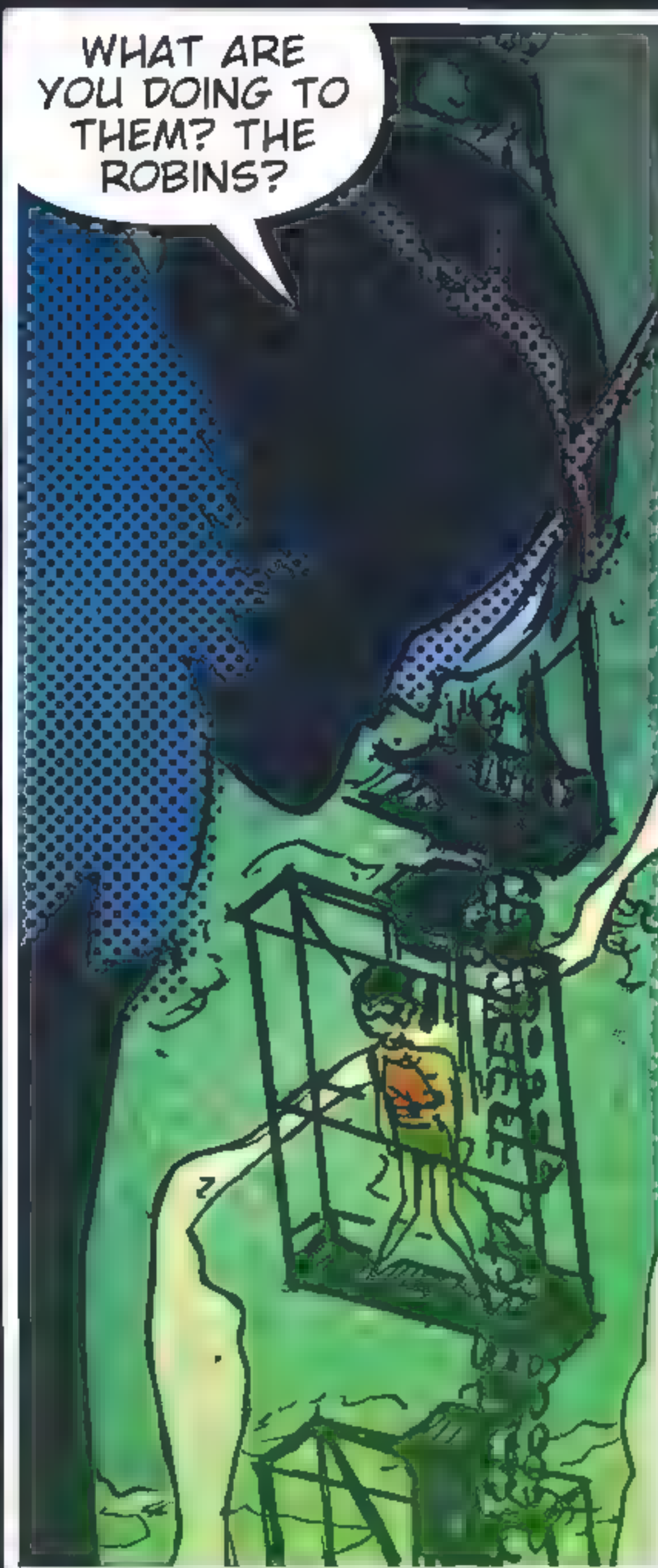
BUT IT NEVER WORKS, SON. GOOD, EVIL, THERE IS NO HIGHER CALLING.



CROWN



AND IN THE END, WHAT YOU LEARN IS THAT THERE IS NO WINNING THEM OVER, THERE IS ONLY WINNING OVER THEM.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THEM? THE ROBINS?



FREEING THEM FROM PAIN, FROM THE DISAPPOINTMENT YOU YOURSELF ARE DOOMED TO FACE.



AS GOBLINS, THEY SIMPLY SERVE THE DARK KNIGHTS.

THERE'S NO ASPIRATION FOR ANYTHING ELSE.

AND THEY ARE HAPPY.

WHAT DO
YOU SAY,
CHILD?

I SAY...
YOU TALK
LIKE THE REST
OF THEM.

SETTING UP RULES,
FORCING EVERYONE TO BE
LIKE YOU. I...I **STILL** BELIEVE
THAT IF YOU SHOW THEM THE
WAY, YOUNG PEOPLE MOST
OF ALL, THEY **WILL** FOLLOW
THE SONG.

I HAVE
HOPE. THEY'RE
OUT THERE.

AS HE SAYS THIS, THE
BOY SEES WHAT'S
COMING. THE OLD MAN
WILL CAGE HIM, BURN
THE VOICE OUT OF HIM.

BEFORE THE BAT SEES, THE BOY TAKES A
PILL HE'D BEEN SAVING FOR THE MARTIAN.
IT TRAPS AND PRESERVES A SMALL PART
OF YOUR MIND INSIDE YOUR BURNING BODY.

HE HASN'T EVEN
SWALLOWED IT BY
THE TIME THE CAGE
DOOR SHUTS...

KLANK

ROWW

...AND HE'S LOWERED
INTO THE HEAT.

THE TRANSFORMATION
IS EXCRUCIATING.

WORST OF ALL,
HE CAN HEAR THE
OLD MAN TALKING.

TELLING HIM
THAT HE'LL SEE.

THAT THIS
IS RIGHT.

BUT THE BOY KNOWS
BETTER. HE HIDES
HIMSELF HIGH IN THE
NEST OF HIS MIND.

HE KNOWS THAT
THERE ARE PEOPLE
OUT THERE HE CAN
CONVINCE.

IF THERE ARE MANY
WORLDS, MAYBE THERE'S
ONE WHERE THEY ARE
WATCHING HIM NOW.
MAYBE SOMEWHERE
OUT THERE CHILDREN
(YOUNG ONES, HE HOPES)
ARE WATCHING HIS
STRUGGLE, THINKING,
CHEER. CHEER. CHEER.
HE CAN HEAR THE
CHANT BUILDING...

WHEN HE OPENS
HIS MOUTH TO
SING, THOUGH...

SAY IT.



SO THE BOY WAITED,
PERCHED HIGH INSIDE
HIS OWN HEAD.

AND EVENTUALLY, WHEN
THE ONE WHO LAUGHS
EVOLVED, HE SET THE
BOY FREE AGAIN.

NOT BECAUSE THE ONE
WHO LAUGHS BELIEVES
THE BOY. ON THE
CONTRARY, THE BOY
CAN FEEL HIS RIDICULE.

NO, HE SET THE BOY FREE AS A DISTRACTION, AS
A WEAPON. IN THE END THE ONE WHO LAUGHS IS
NO DIFFERENT THAN THE BOY'S PARENTS. OR THE
CAREGIVER AT THEIR GRAVE. OR THE HEROES.

BUT THE BOY KNOWS...SOMEWHERE
OUT THERE YOUNG EYES ARE WATCHING.
WATCH THIS, HE THINKS...WATCH ME
EAT THEM ALIVE, BONES AND ALL!

I WAS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH
YOUR FRIENDS, I ALMOST FORGOT
ABOUT YOU THREE...

KLAK

NNN...

...BUT NOT
REALLY!

RNN...

GNFF...

THUNK

HOW DO
YOU LIKE
MY NEW
TRINITY
RINGS?

FIRST UP, MY
KRYPTONITE ONE FOR
YOU-KNOW-WHO.

MY PEARL
OF BLOOD
RING FOR
BATS.

AND MY
SPECIAL DIAMOND
RING FORGED IN
THE FIRES BY
HEPHAESTUS FOR
MY LOVELY DIANA.



RISE,
YOU PRINCES AND
PRINCESS OF GOTHAM,
METROPOLIS, AND
THEMYSCIRA...

...LET THE
BATTLE
BEGIN!

AS HE FIGHTS, THE BOY
FILLS HIS HEART WITH HOPE.

THERE ARE NO
CHILDREN ON THIS
WORLD--THERE'S
BARELY ANYONE LEFT.

BUT OUT THERE
SOMEWHERE,
THEY'RE WATCHING
ME, HE THINKS.

ACROSS WORLDS
AND WINDOWS
YOU SEE ME.

YOU HEAR
MY SONG.

I AM NOT HERE TO
CONQUER YOU.

I AM NOT
HERE TO WIN
OVER YOU.

I AM NOT
HERE TO
CAGE YOU.

I AM HERE TO
SHOW YOU THAT
YOU CAN DO
THIS TOO!

YOU CAN KILL THE OLD!
YOU CAN EAT THEIR BONES!
YOU CAN BURN THEIR
WORLD! DO IT SINGING!
CHEER CHEER CH--

ENOUGH.

PLAYTIME IS OVER.

TIME TO GO.

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

HE'S GROWING EXPONENTIALLY IN POWER!

NO! NOT YET!

IT IS TIME, CHILD.

NO! LET ME FINISH! I WANT TO SHOW THEM!

I WANT... TO SHOW THEM.

COME WITH ME.


NO, I WON'T GO BACK IN THE CAGE! I WON'T!

I WON'T!




DON'T
BE AFRAID,
LITTLE ONE.

WHERE ARE
YOU TAKING
ME?

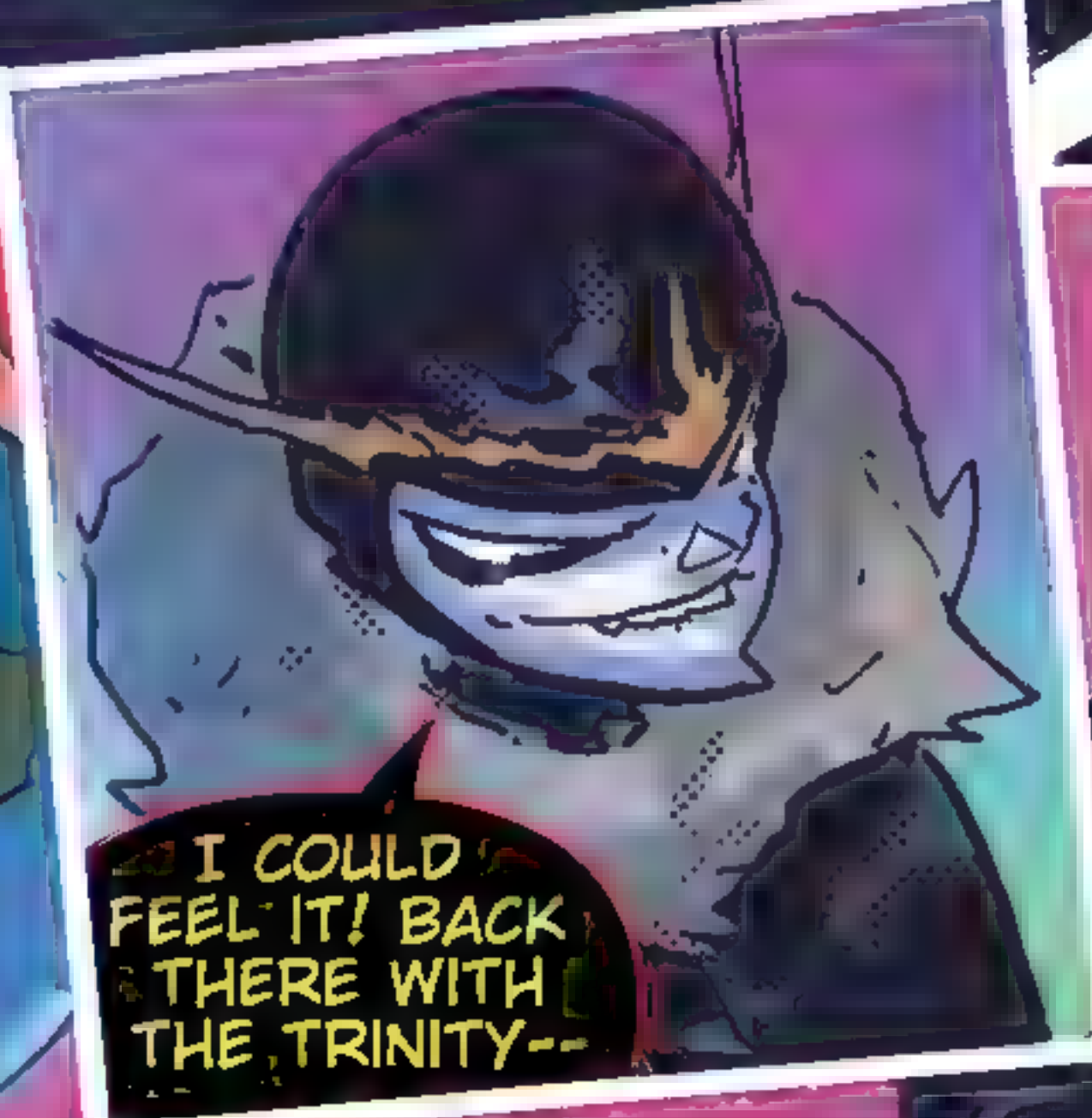


WE'RE
GOING BACK TO
YOUR PLANET,
AREN'T WE?
AREN'T WE?!

ALL THIS TIME, YOU'VE
TRIED TO PROVE THAT
HOPE IS REAL. THAT IF
YOU SHOW PEOPLE THE
WAY, THEY WILL
FOLLOW.



THEY
WILL.



I COULD
FEEL IT! BACK
THERE WITH
THE TRINITY--

HEH. THE PILL YOU TOOK BEFORE
I CHANGED YOU, IT INFUSED THE
ROBIN PIT. EVERY GROBLIN MADE
AFTER YOU RETAINED A TINY
AMOUNT OF FREE WILL.

SO WHAT,
YOU KILLED
THEM?

NO. I LET
THEM WATCH YOU
FROM MY WORLD.
TO PROVE YOU WRONG.
THAT THEY WOULD STILL
CROW FOR ME. BUT
WHEN I RETURNED,
TO SEE...

...I WAS
SURPRISED TO
HEAR SOMETHING
ELSE...

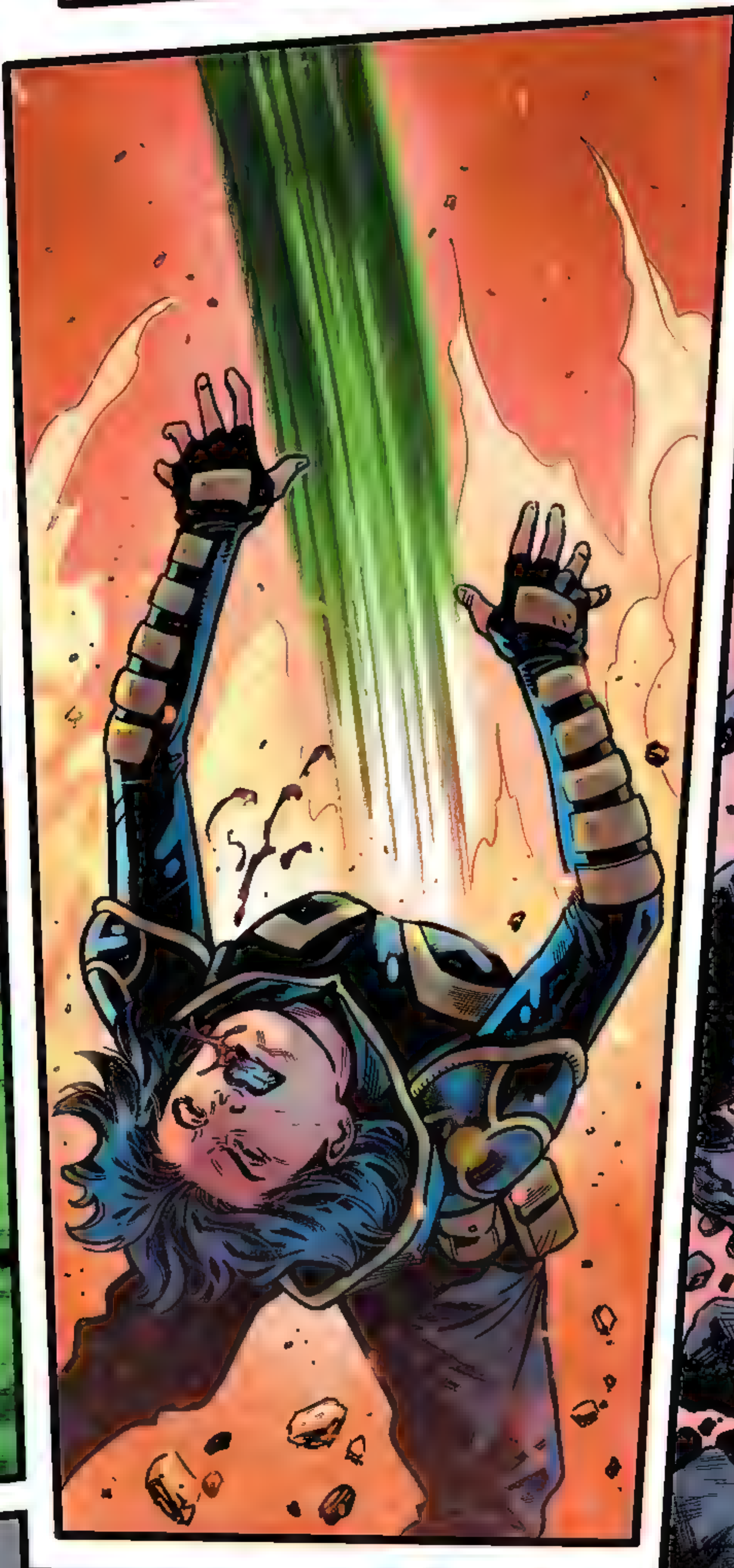
THAT
SOUND...

THEY BROKE
THEIR CHAINS
AND THEY
AWAIT...

CHEER CHEER CHEER

...THE ONE
AND ONLY
ROBIN
KING.

Next: THE RIFF CONTINUES in **DEATH METAL #5!**



WHETHER
YOU'RE A ROBIN, A
FORMER ROBIN, OR
AN ALMOST-ROBIN...

...YOU KNOW
EVEN WITH THE
TRINITY, THE
LEAGUE, AND ALL
THE BIG GUNS
OUT THERE...



...IT'S GONNA
COME DOWN TO
YOU TO SAVE
YOUR OWN
NEIGHBORHOOD.



ENOUGH.

TODAY, NOON.
CASTLE BAT, FORMERLY
KNOWN AS GOTHAM.

WELCOME
HOME,
SIGNAL.

HOW MANY
@! EVIL VERSIONS
OF BATMAN ARE
OUT THERE?

AND WHY CAN'T I EVER
FACE AN EASY-TO-BEAT
ALTERNATE-UNIVERSE
BATMAN WHO CALLS
HIMSELF THE BATMAN
WHO *EASILY BRUISES*
AND GOES DOWN WITH
A SINGLE PUNCH?

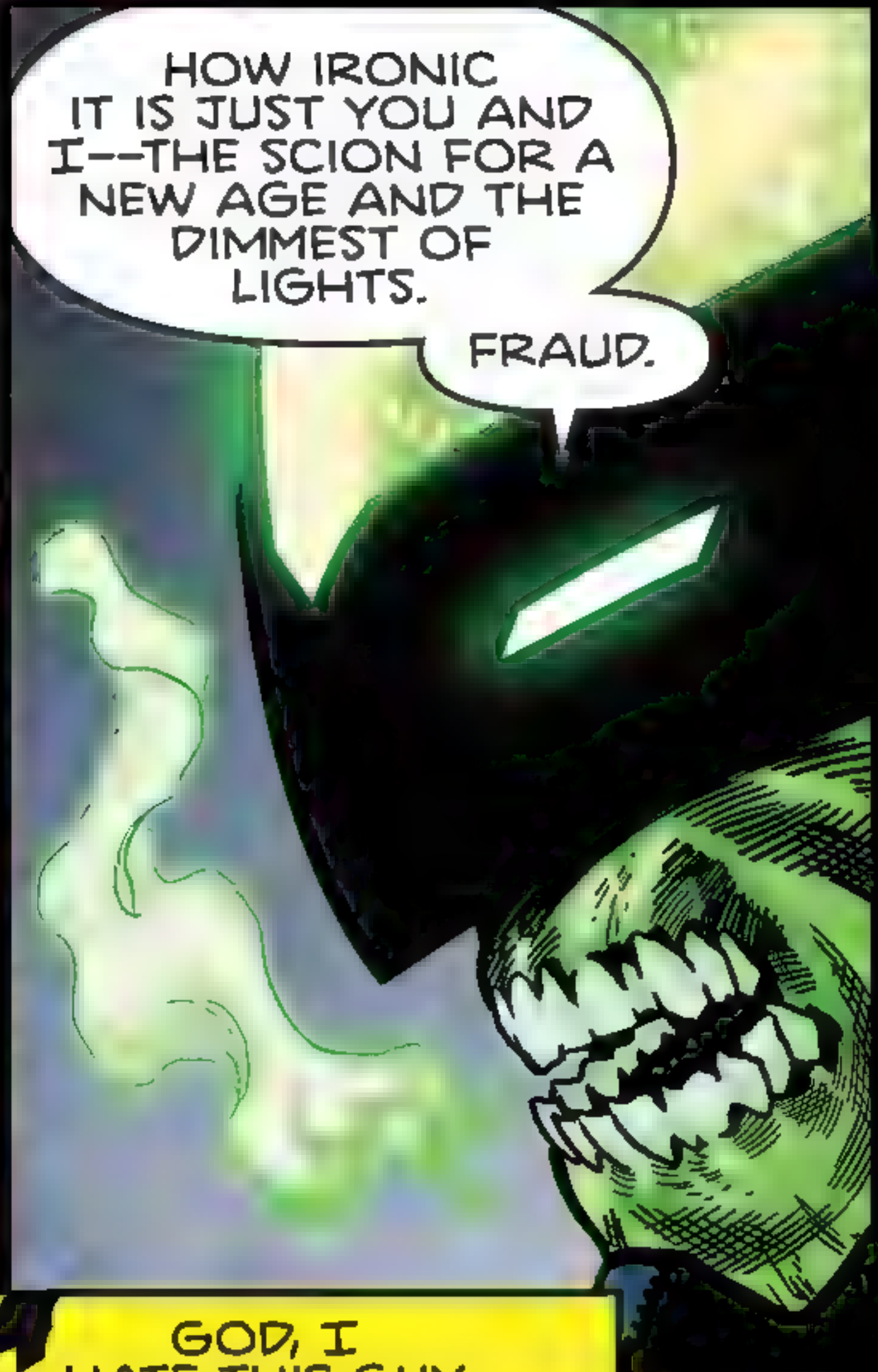
THE QUIET ONES

TONY PATRICK – WRITER
DANIEL SAMPERE – ARTIST
ADRIANO LUCAS – COLORIST
AND WORLD DESIGN – LETTERER
ANDREW MARINO – EDITOR



AS ALWAYS, YOU'RE LEFT ALONE. ABANDONED.

THE WEAKEST LINK ON EVERY TEAM.



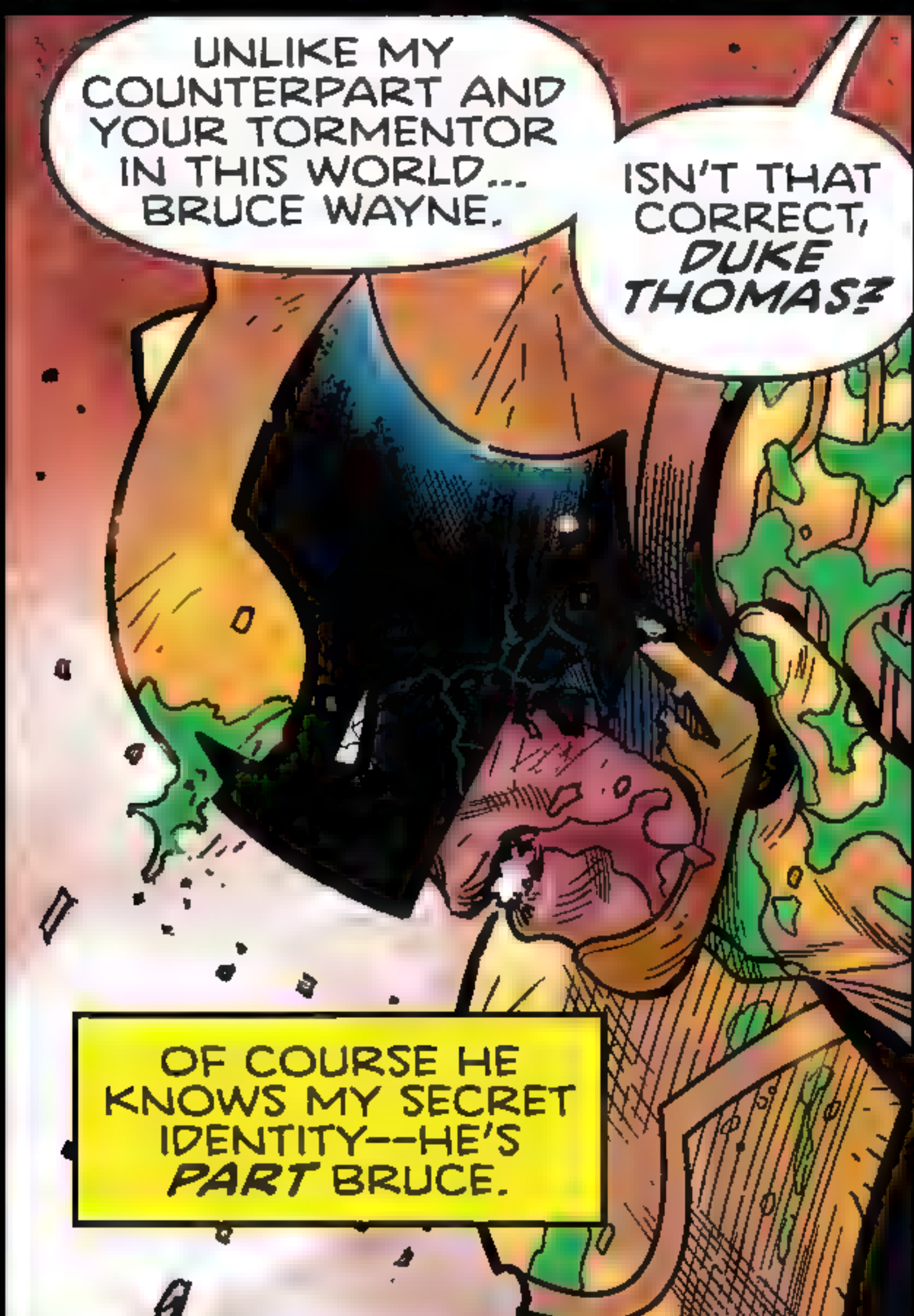
HOW IRONIC IT IS JUST YOU AND I--THE SCION FOR A NEW AGE AND THE DIMMEST OF LIGHTS.

FRAUD.

GOD, I HATE THIS GUY ALREADY. AND HIS SMUG, GREEN...CAN YOU CALL THAT A FACE?

YOU MAY CALL ME *QUIETUS*. IN SOME DIMENSIONS, I AM YOUR *MENTOR*. IN OTHERS, YOUR *DEMISE*.

IN THIS DIMENSION, I AM YOUR *SAVIOR*.



UNLIKE MY COUNTERPART AND YOUR TORMENTOR IN THIS WORLD... BRUCE WAYNE.

ISN'T THAT CORRECT, *DUKE THOMAS*?

OF COURSE HE KNOWS MY SECRET IDENTITY--HE'S *PART* BRUCE.



HE'S SECRETING SOME KIND OF LIQUID RESIDUE AFTER HIS ATTACKS. IS IT TOXIC?



GOT NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

...I'M KINDA IN THE *DARK* OVER HERE.



YOUR
SHADOW
ABILITIES. YES.
SOMEWHAT
INTERESTING...

...BUT JUST
ANOTHER
EXAMPLE OF
**WASTED
POTENTIAL.**

YOU
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENS TO
DARKNESS WHEN
IT ENCOUNTERS
THE LIGHTS OF
LAZARUS?

 HIS VOICE--

IT
IMPLODES.

--SOUNDS
DIFFERENT.
IT'S NOT *JUST*
BRUCE'S VOICE.

ANOTHER
FAILURE, OF
COURSE. BUT
WHAT WOULD ONE
EXPECT...

...FROM THE BOY
WHO COULDN'T
SAVE HIS PARENTS
IN ANY DIMENSION
I'VE SEEN.

--ARRRRGHHH--
MY EYES--ARE--
ARE--



FEAST ON
THE FLOOD OF
VARIATIONS.

THE SIGNAL
THAT WENT
COMPLETELY
DARK.

THE INFINITE
TIMES... YOU'VE
FAILED YOURSELF.
AND DIED.

THE
COUNTLESS TIMES
THE DETECTIVE
HAS FAILED
YOU.

I WAS BORN
BECAUSE THE BATMAN
IN MY DIMENSION WAS
TRYING TO RESURRECT
YOU AFTER CAUSING
YOUR EXPIRATION.

RA'S AL GHUL'S
INTERVENTION LEAD
TO A MUTUAL
DEATH.

IN THEIR FINAL
MOMENTS, BATMAN AND
RA'S AL GHUL'S ESSENCES
ENTANGLED IN A DEFUNCT
LAZARUS PIT--SPARKING
A NEW ENTITY INSTEAD
OF REVIVING A
SINGLE LIFE.

BUT MY
BIRTH IS ALL
THAT MATTERS. I
AM NOW OPPOSING
FORCES MERGED
TOGETHER AS
ONE.

YOUR
CORPSE CAME
INTO CONTACT WITH
THE PIT--WHICH MEANS
I AM AN AMALGAM
OF MANY THINGS,
INCLUDING
YOU, DUKE.



WHICH BRINGS
ME TO MY
QUESTION...

AREN'T YOU
EXHAUSTED WITH
SUCH A LACKLUSTER
EXISTENCE?

PERHAPS A
RETIREMENT IS
IN ORDER.

BATMAN
HELPED ME
EMBRACE MY
LIGHT POWERS.

I THOUGHT
RA'S TOOK
THEM AWAY
AND PLUNGED
ME INTO THE
SHADOWS.



ALLOW ME TO
END YOUR MISERY
WITH A SINGLE
STRIKE. SO ALL YOUR
TIMELINES CAN BE
CONSISTENT.

I WAS WRONG. RA'S
DIDN'T TAKE ANYTHING
AWAY--HE JUST *TURNED*
THINGS DOWN.



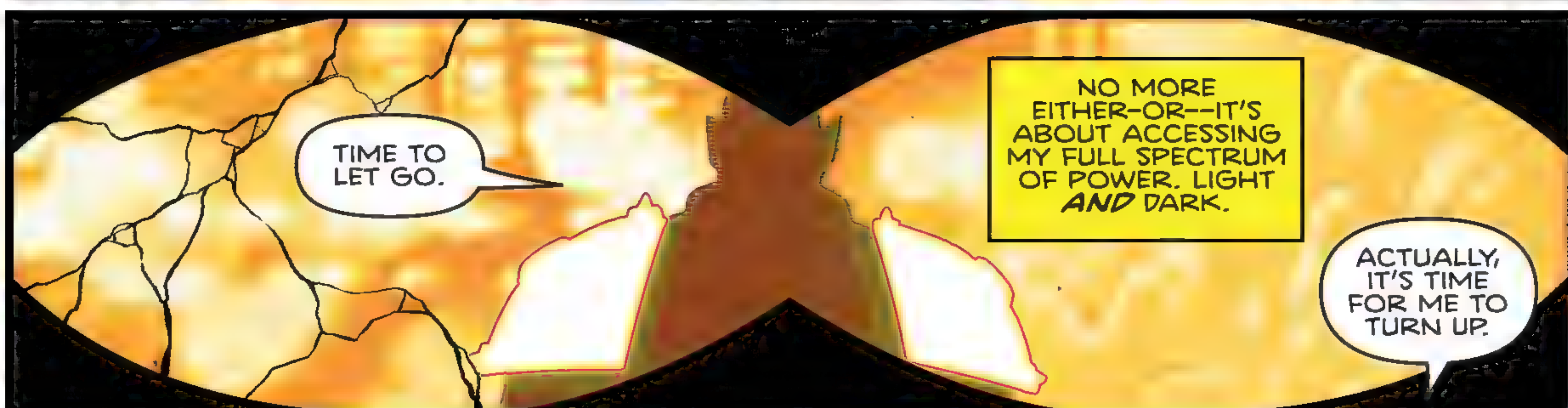
THERE WILL
BE NO MORE
RESPONSIBILITY.
OR WORRY.

I CAN FEEL IT.
THE BALANCING
ACT IS OVER.



OR
INEPTITUDE.

THAT RESIDUE
WAS FROM THE
LAZARUS PIT.
I HAVE FULL
CONTROL NOW.



TIME TO
LET GO.

NO MORE
EITHER-OR--IT'S
ABOUT ACCESSING
MY FULL SPECTRUM
OF POWER. LIGHT
AND DARK.

ACTUALLY,
IT'S TIME
FOR ME TO
TURN UP.



SHOULDERS.



HI.

SPOILER
ALERT.

RED?

ON IT.

I KNOW YOU
THOUGHT THIS
MATCH WAS GONNA
END MANO A
MANO BUT...

...I'VE COME
TO REALIZE **NO
MATTER WHAT
I DO--I DON'T
HAVE TO DO IT
ALONE.**

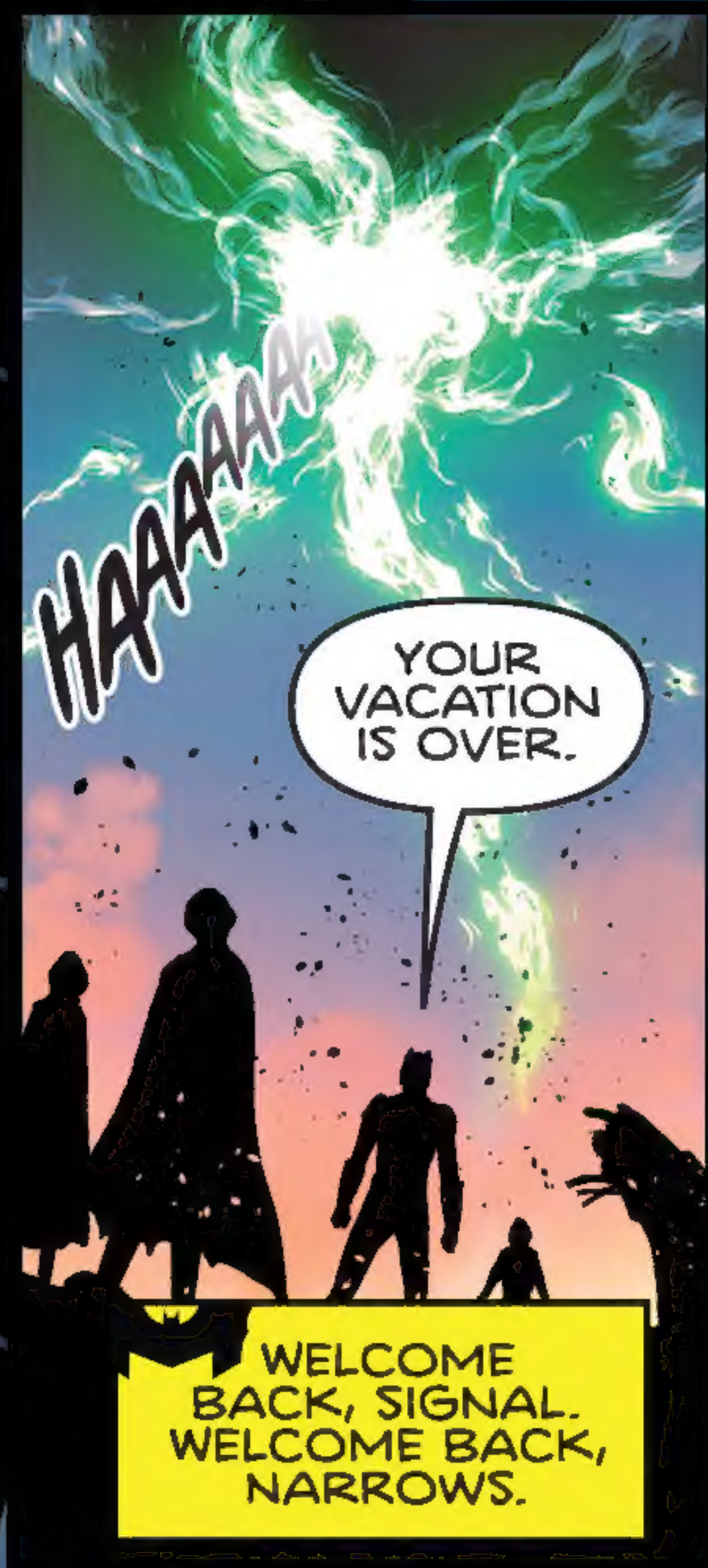
CREW,
MEET QUIETUS.
QUIETUS? MEET MY
CREW **KICKING
YOUR HEAD IN** FOR
THINKING YOU OWN
SOMETHING YOU
DON'T.

BUT,
REAL TALK?
DEEP DOWN
INSIDE I KNOW
YOU KNOW THE
TRUTH. JUST
LIKE BATMAN
DOES.

YOU'RE
JUST LIKE EVERY
VILLAIN I'VE EVER
MET...INCLUDING
CASTLE BAT. YOU
THINK THIS CITY
**BELONGS TO
YOU.**

ONE DAY THIS
CITY IS GONNA SLIP
**RIGHT OUT OF YOUR
HANDS AND INTO
OURS. THE NEXT
GENERATION.**

GOTHAM
REALLY
BELONGS
TO **US.**





IN THEMYSIRA, ALL CITIZENS HAVE A VOICE IN CHOOSING OUR LEADERS.

BUT IN AMERICA, CITIZENS HAVE HAD TO FIGHT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO HAVE AN EQUAL VOICE IN THEIR DEMOCRACY.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES EVEN TODAY...



"...THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ONLY ALLOWED WHITE LAND-OWNING MEN, 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, TO VOTE.

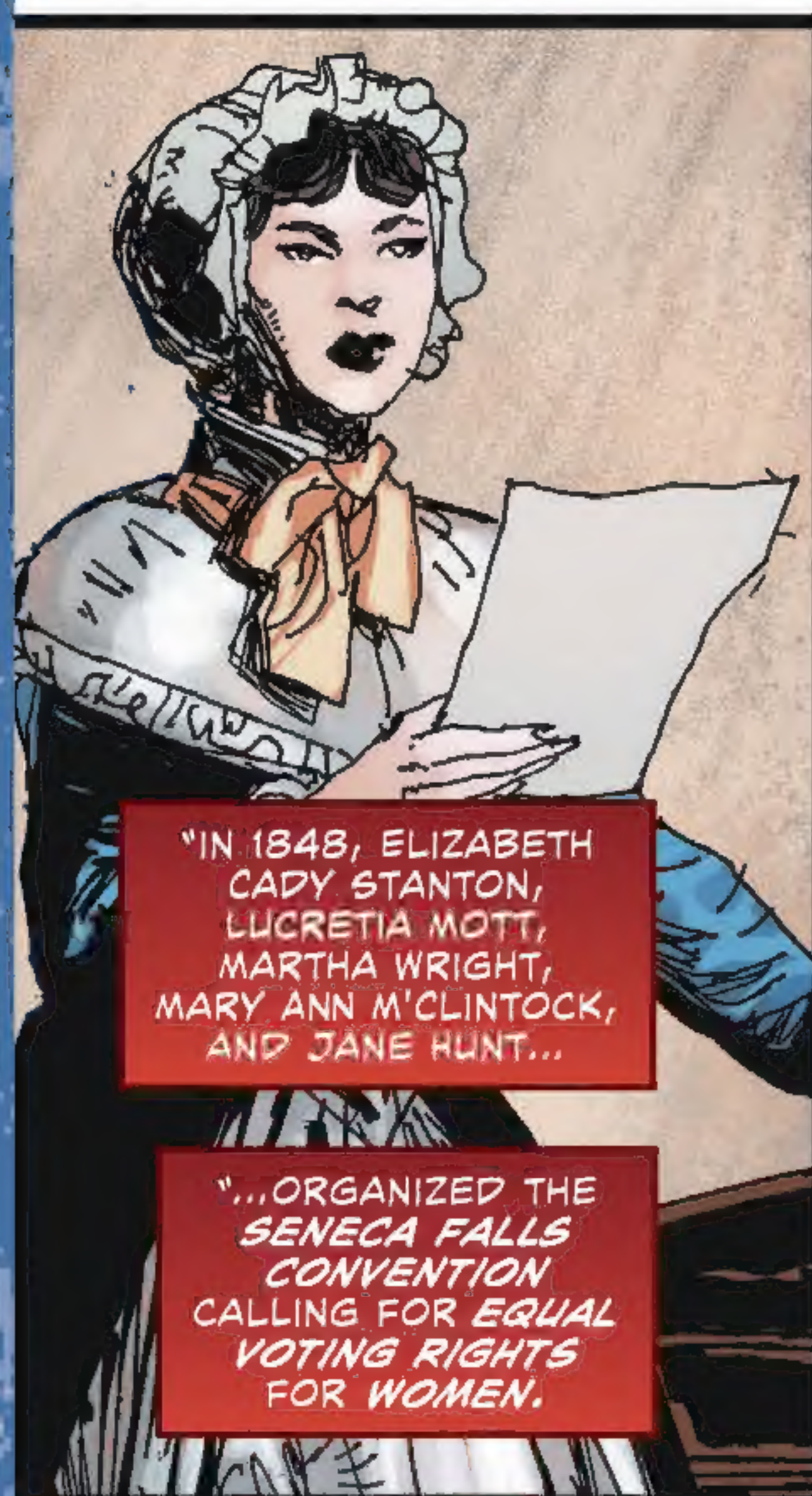


"THE WAR OF 1812 SPARKED PROTESTS AMONG LANDLESS MEN WHO WERE BEING SENT TO FIGHT AND DIE AGAINST THE BRITISH...

"...BUT IT TOOK DECADES FOR STATES TO ALLOW ALL WHITE MEN--PRINCE AND PAUPER ALIKE--TO VOTE.

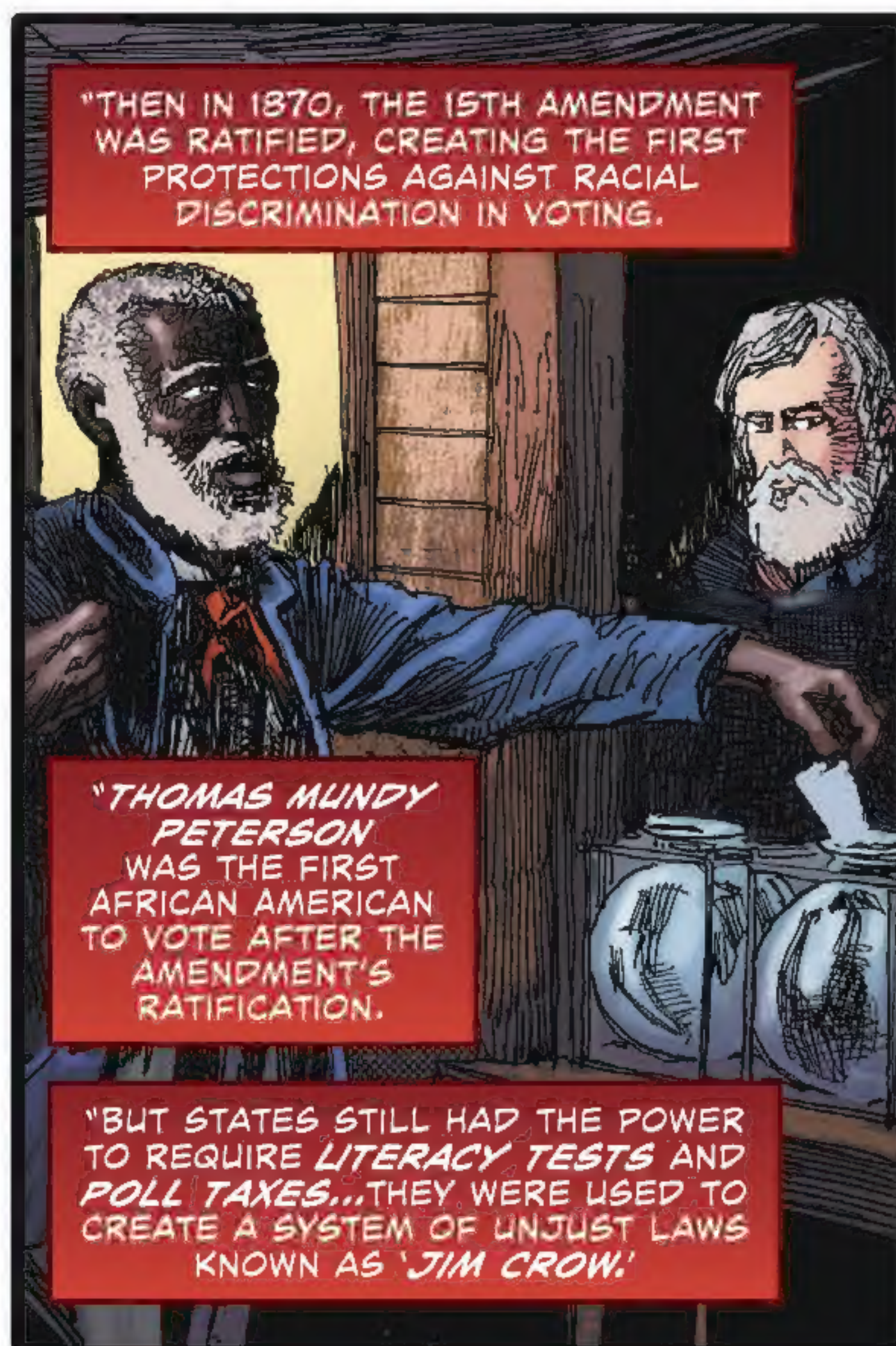
ROCK THE VOTE

BATTLE FOR THE VOTE



"IN 1848, ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, LUCRETIA MOTT, MARTHA WRIGHT, MARY ANN M'CLINTOCK, AND JANE HUNT...

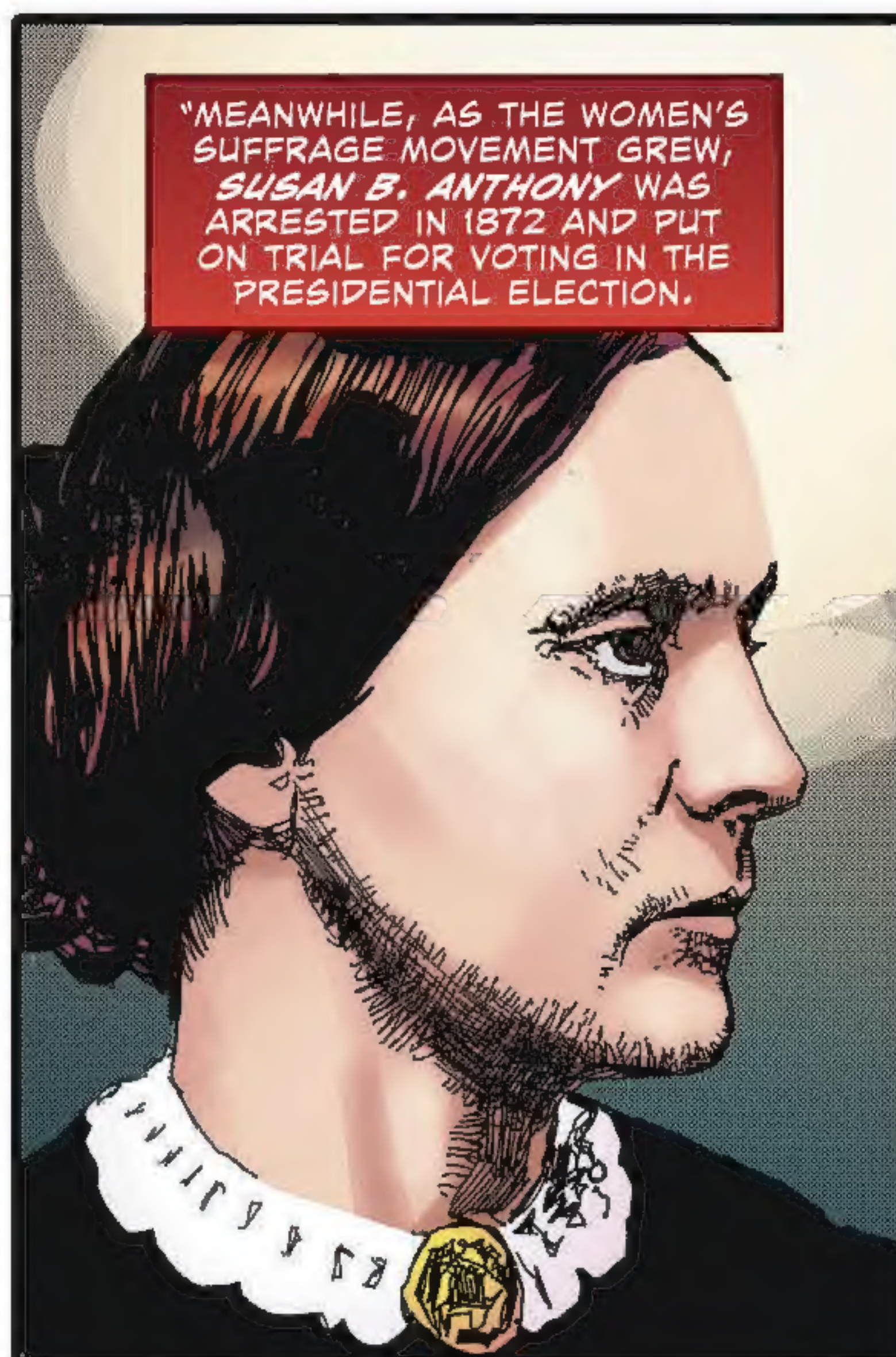
"...ORGANIZED THE SENECA FALLS CONVENTION CALLING FOR EQUAL VOTING RIGHTS FOR WOMEN.



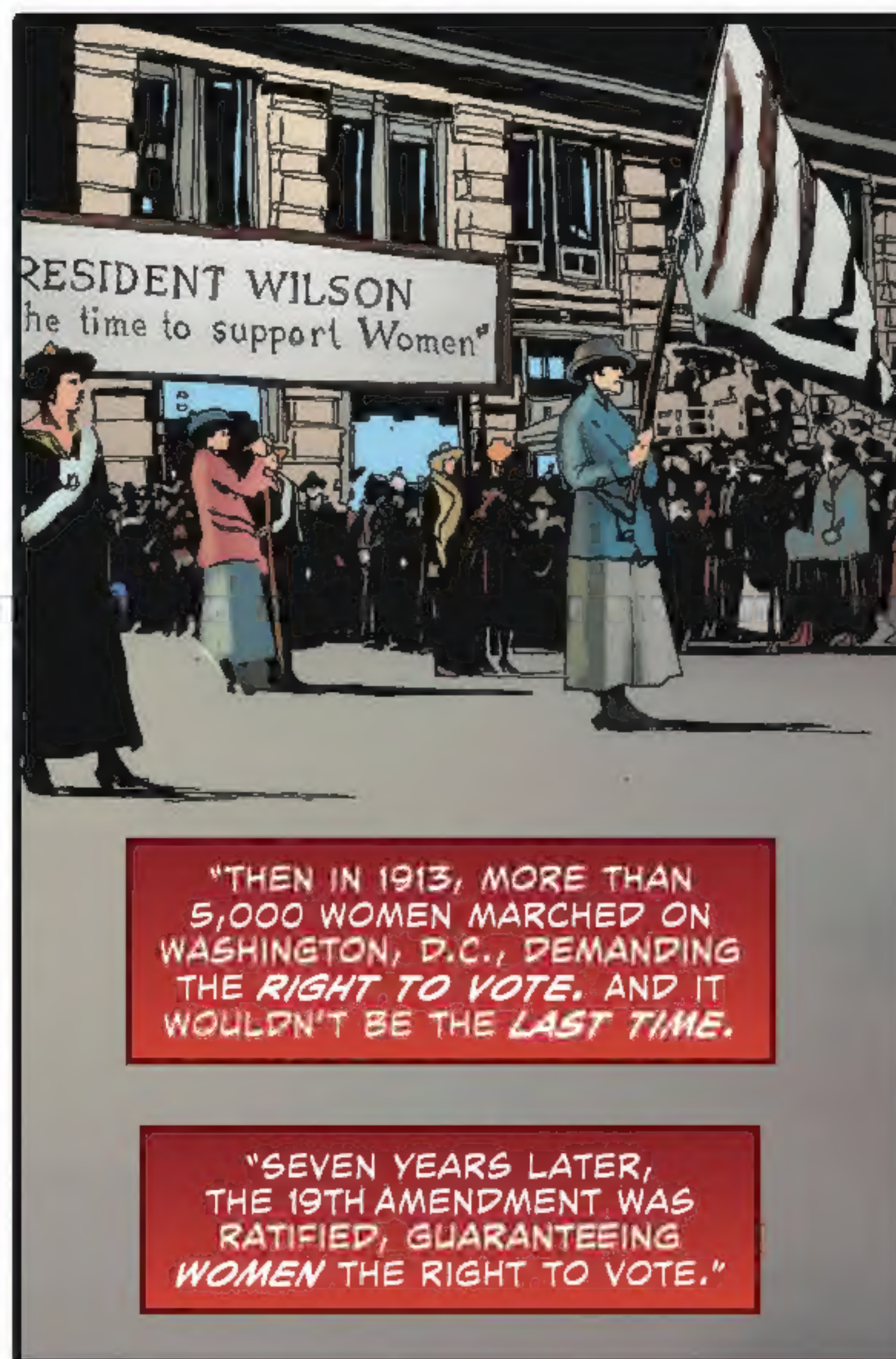
"THEN IN 1870, THE 15TH AMENDMENT WAS RATIFIED, CREATING THE FIRST PROTECTIONS AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN VOTING.

"THOMAS MUNDY PETERSON WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO VOTE AFTER THE AMENDMENT'S RATIFICATION.

"BUT STATES STILL HAD THE POWER TO REQUIRE LITERACY TESTS AND POLL TAXES...THEY WERE USED TO CREATE A SYSTEM OF UNJUST LAWS KNOWN AS 'JIM CROW'.



"MEANWHILE, AS THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT GREW, SUSAN B. ANTHONY WAS ARRESTED IN 1872 AND PUT ON TRIAL FOR VOTING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.



RESIDENT WILSON
the time to support Women"

"THEN IN 1913, MORE THAN 5,000 WOMEN MARCHED ON WASHINGTON, D.C., DEMANDING THE RIGHT TO VOTE. AND IT WOULDN'T BE THE LAST TIME.

"SEVEN YEARS LATER, THE 19TH AMENDMENT WAS RATIFIED, GUARANTEEING WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE."



THAT'S RIGHT, WONDER WOMAN.

BUT BLACK PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR STILL FACED AN UNJUST SYSTEM.

IT WASN'T UNTIL 1964 THAT POLL TAXES WERE ELIMINATED WITH THE 24TH AMENDMENT.

WAIT, BATMAN, WHAT'S A POLL TAX?

IT'S WHEN YOU HAVE TO PAY TO VOTE, BEAST BOY--IT'S A FORM OF VOTER SUPPRESSION.

OH...THAT'S TERRIBLE!

VOTER SUPPRESSION IS UN-AMERICAN.

VOTING IS YOUR RIGHT AS A CITIZEN...



"...BUT THE 24TH AMENDMENT WAS ONLY A START TO ENDING LAWS MEANT TO PREVENT BLACK PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR FROM VOTING.

"IN 1965, PEACEFUL BLACK PROTESTERS WERE SAVAGELY BEATEN BY ALABAMA STATE TROOPERS ON WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS 'BLOODY SUNDAY'.

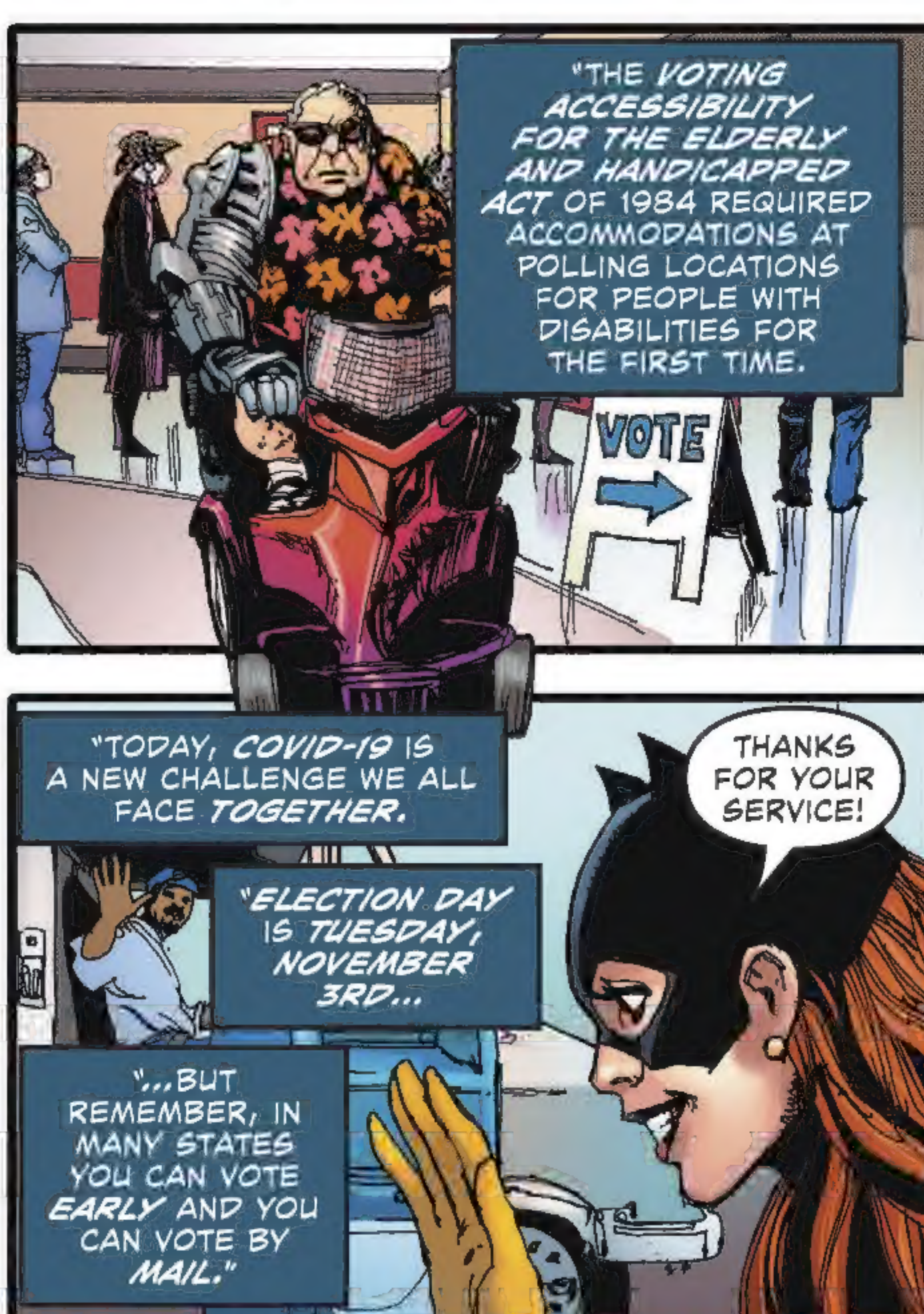
"THE CONFRONTATION HELPED SPUR PASSAGE OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT, WHICH AIMED TO DEFEAT LEGAL BARRIERS PREVENTING BLACK AMERICANS FROM EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE.



"IN 1971, THE RATIFICATION OF THE 26TH AMENDMENT WAS THE CULMINATION OF A DECADES LONG STRUGGLE TO LOWER THE VOTING AGE TO 18...

NO VIETNAMESE EVER CALLED ME

"...SO YOUNG PEOPLE DRAFTED TO FIGHT AMERICA'S WARS WOULD HAVE A VOICE IN ELECTING THEIR LEADERS.



"THE VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED ACT OF 1984 REQUIRED ACCOMMODATIONS AT POLLING LOCATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FOR THE FIRST TIME.

"TODAY, COVID-19 IS A NEW CHALLENGE WE ALL FACE TOGETHER.

"ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD..."

"...BUT REMEMBER, IN MANY STATES YOU CAN VOTE EARLY AND YOU CAN VOTE BY MAIL."

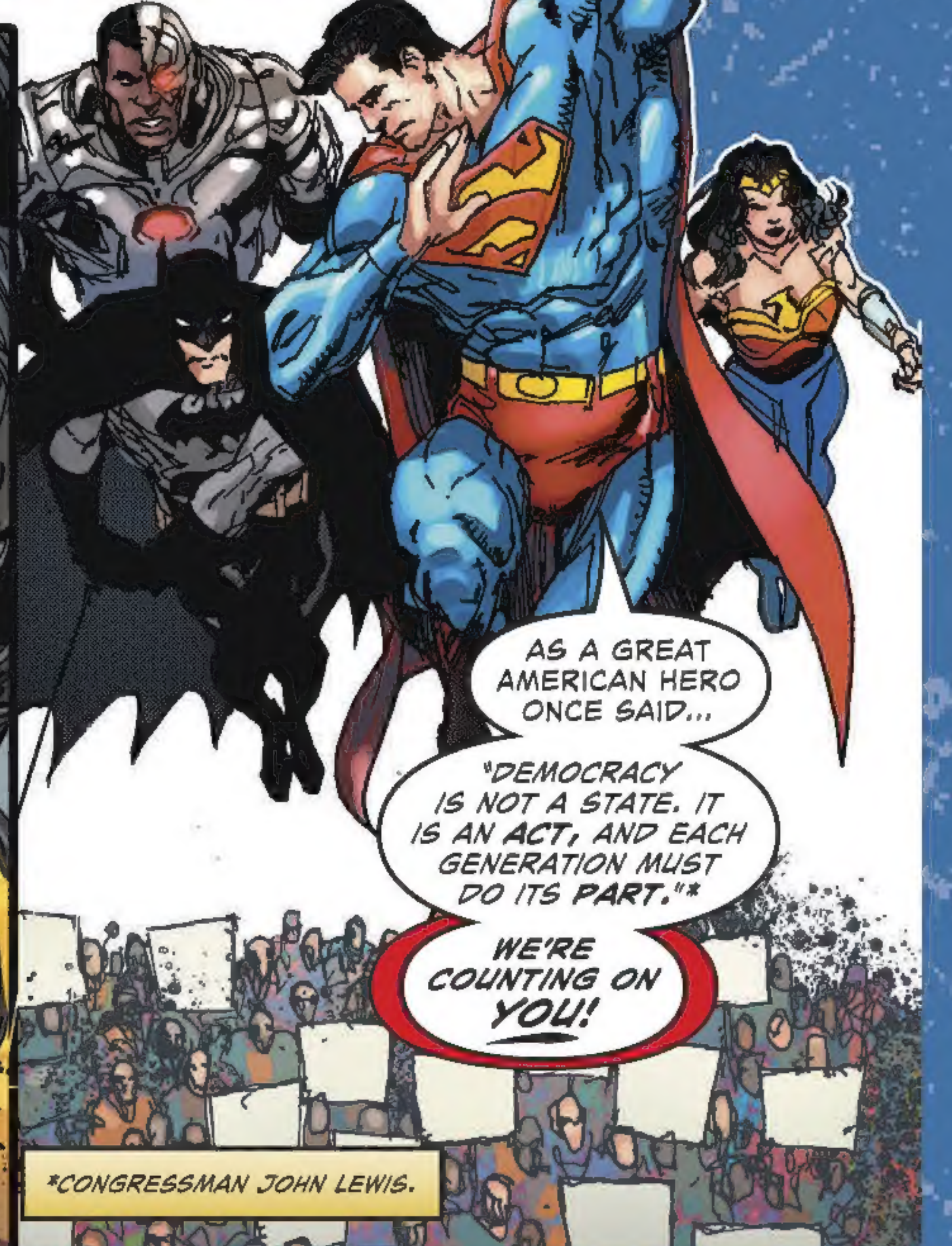
THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE!



WHETHER YOU LIVE IN GOTHAM OR NEW YORK, METROPOLIS OR CHICAGO, SMALLVILLE OR SIOUX FALLS--

--WE NEED YOU TO USE YOUR POWER.

VOTE EARLY, VOTE BY MAIL, OR VOTE ON ELECTION DAY--THE CHOICE IS YOURS.



AS A GREAT AMERICAN HERO ONCE SAID...

"DEMOCRACY IS NOT A STATE. IT IS AN ACT, AND EACH GENERATION MUST DO ITS PART."

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

*CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS.

The *White Knight* universe expands with *Batman: White Knight Presents Harley Quinn*, a new miniseries written by Katana Collins in collaboration with Sean Murphy, illustrated by Matteo Scalera, and taking place in the wake of *Batman: Curse of the White Knight*'s explosive conclusion.

WRITERS OF
BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT
PRESENTS



THERE HAVE NOW BEEN MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF HARLEY QUINN ACROSS A VARIETY OF MEDIA. WHAT MAKES THE HARLEY QUINN OF THE WHITE KNIGHT UNIVERSE SPECIAL? WHAT KIND OF STORIES CAN BE TOLD WITH HER THAT YOU WOULDN'T SEE ELSEWHERE?

To start with, *White Knight* Harley is a new mom of Joker's twins, trying to navigate a new Gotham where Batman is not a foe, but a friend...Joker is dead...as are most of the villains that once roamed Gotham freely. She's trying to make up for her past while finding a new normal for herself.

Being a parent will most certainly shape anyone's story—real or fictional! But because Harley's children are Joker's twins, they are a constant reminder both of Harley's checkered past, as well as a painful memory of the man she loved...and killed.

WHAT CAN YOU SHARE ABOUT THE NEW VILLAINS INTRODUCED IN THIS SERIES: THE PRODUCER AND STARLET?

Starlet is a new serial killer terrorizing Gotham and targeting old Hollywood film stars, painting them black and white postmortem and mimicking gruesome deaths from their films. In this book, she even targets the Gray Ghost!

The Producer, however, is just that...a producer. The man behind the scenes. He sees Gotham as an empty stage after Azrael killed most of the villains and he wants to fill that stage with new super-criminals.

IT'S EXCITING TO SEE MATTEO SCALERA JOIN THE WHITE KNIGHT FOLD—HOW HAVE YOU ENJOYED SEEING HIS TAKE ON THIS WORLD AND THESE CHARACTERS?

It is so exciting to have Matteo join us on *Batman: White Knight Presents Harley Quinn*. Both of us have always been huge fans of Matteo's beautiful style, and it fits so well into the *White Knight* world.

EVEN THOUGH BATMAN IS IN PRISON, HE MUST STILL HAVE SOME KIND OF PRESENCE. WHAT ROLE IS HE SET TO PLAY?

Oh, yes! Batman not only is a key confidant in Harley's life, but let's just say he's not above breaking out of prison to help her!

**DON'T MISS *BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT PRESENTS HARLEY QUINN* #1,
ON SALE IN OCTOBER**



Variant Cover
by Matteo Scalera

DC BLACK LABEL
AGES 17+

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

